PILGRIM JÄGER

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PILGRIM JÄGER
VOLUME THREE
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CONTENUTI

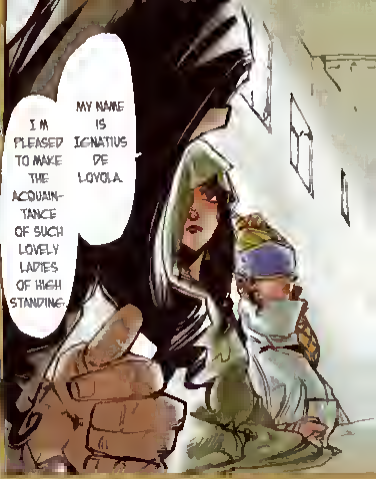
Anti; 01 The First Supper	*3*
Anti; 02 God and Man	*29*
Anti; 03 Have Mercy 1	*59*
Anti; 04 Have Mercy 2	*81*
Anti; 05 Have Mercy 3	*99*
Anti; 06 As Far As The Eye Can See	*125*
Anti; 07 Cor Unum— One Heart	*151*
Anti; 08 Evil in the Hand	*177*
Extra: Interlude	*203*

ALL 10 PEOPLE ON THE LIST ARE HERE.
YOU'VE ALL AGREED TO CULTIVATE FIELDS OF BLOOD IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR INDULGENCES.
WITH YOUR MYSTERIOUS POWERS,
YOU WILL SERVE THE CHURCH.
IT IS OUR DUTY TO ANNIHILATE THE EVIL HERETICS!
WE WILL PURGE THE CHRISTIAN WORLD WITH THE BLOOD OF ONE MILLION PEOPLE!!

I'M FROM SPAIN, BUT I STUDIED AT A UNIVERSITY IN PARIS FOR A WHILE...
YES...
I SEE...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING...
ALL THE WAY FROM FRANCE TO ROME...
CALM DOWN, MR. ASHE...
NOW, NOW
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF BREAD AND WINE

Anti; 01
The First Supper

HE'S A MONK- HE SHOULDN'T BE SO CAVALIER. ...


MY NAME IS IGNATIUS DE LOYOLA.
I'M PLEASED TO MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF SUCH LOVELY LADIES OF HIGH STANDING.

CROGURA SWEIJIN...
... SHE'S ...

...FAUSTINA METATRON.

YOU'RE RIGHT, FAUSTINA.
HOW CAN HE SAY THAT YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL FACE WHEN HE CAN'T EVEN SEE IT, CROGURA?

HMMM.
I ... HEAR VOICES COMING FROM YOUR HEAD, MR. LOYOLA.

THE "VOICES OF ANGELS"
WHAT IS THAT?
THEY ARE ANGELS THAT THE JEWS ARE FOND OF, XAVIER.
THE VOICES IN MY HEAD ARE SO BEAUTIFUL.
XAVIER?
OH, HE'S ALWAYS SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT...
DON'T MIND HIM.
HUH.
HEY, FRANCESCA.
I THINK I COULD BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WITH AN ARISTOCRATIC GIRL LIKE YOU.
TH-THANKS.

TO EACH HIS OWN BUT...
THAT IS NOT THE BONE STRUCTURE OF A GIRL.
NOW, NOW...
MR. ASHE, PLEASE EAT.
LISTEN TO ME...
STOP EATING AND DRINKING!
YOU!
HE'S SO PEPPY, EVEN HIS SHADOW IS FRIGHTENED.
JOAJM.
THIS KIND OF THING IS FUN--EVERY NOW AND THEN.
VERONICA.

LADIES!
THE WORD "BEAUTIFUL" IS A UNIVERSAL AND SINCERE EXPRESSION.
YOU'RE RIGHT, FAUSTINA.
IS "BEAUTIFUL" SUCH A TRITE AND UNPOETIC EXPRESSION
IT'S SO TIRING TO ANSWER PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO AWARENESS OR INDIVIDUALITY
No No
BUT THE REMAINING 3/4 OF YOU LADIES IS SACRED, INDEED.
IT'S SUCH A MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY.
BUT YOU CAN ONLY SEE HALF OF HER FACE.
THAT MAKES IT ONLY 1/4 UNIVERSAL.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW HIM, CROGURA.
IS IT?

I LOST MY ARM THEN TOO
THEY ARE SCARS FROM BEING STONED
NOW THAT I SEE IT WITH MY EYES, THE MYSTERIOUSNESS MOUNTS
HMMM
!!
YOU ARE TRULY BEAUTIFUL

DO NOT TOUCH CROGURA WITH YOUR FILTHY HANDS!
ASHE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
WE'LL DISINFECT THAT LATER TO MAKE SURE
THANK YOU, ASHE.
I'M FINE.
THANK
I DON'T GET IT!
HOW CAN SUCH A MALNOURISHED, FLIMSY MAN TURN THE HEAD OF SUCH BEAUTIFUL WOMAN?
WHAT DOES SHE SEE IN THIS MAN WHO HAS AN OBVIOUS LACK OF BLOOD GOING TO HIS HEAD?
THIS GOES BEYOND MYSTERIOUS THIS MUST BE A MISTAKE
YOU!

THESE PEOPLE ARE STRANGE
BACK-COUN-TRY?
MR. ASHE--
--EARLIER YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HERETICS AND PURGING.
IS THAT THE REASON WE ARE HERE?
YOU MIDDLE-AGED BACK COUNTRY SPANIARD! HOW DARE YOU MOCK ME!

---YOU SHOULD NOT USE THE WORD "PURGE" SO LIGHTLY.
YOUNG MAN--
THAT'S RIGHT
DIDN'T CARDINAL GIULIO OR THE SERPENT TELL YOU?
LISTEN!
---LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ALL OF THE BLOODSHED HAS ENDED.
TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE WHO COMES FROM THE LAND OF PEACEFUL, DEVOTED CATHOLICS WHO IN THE LAST 200 YEARS, MASSACRED 8 MILLION JEWS AND MUSLIMS---
WHAT?

GOD AND DIO AND DEUS AND ALLAH AND YAWEH--
--THEY ARE ALL THE SAME!
IT'S THE SAME GOD!

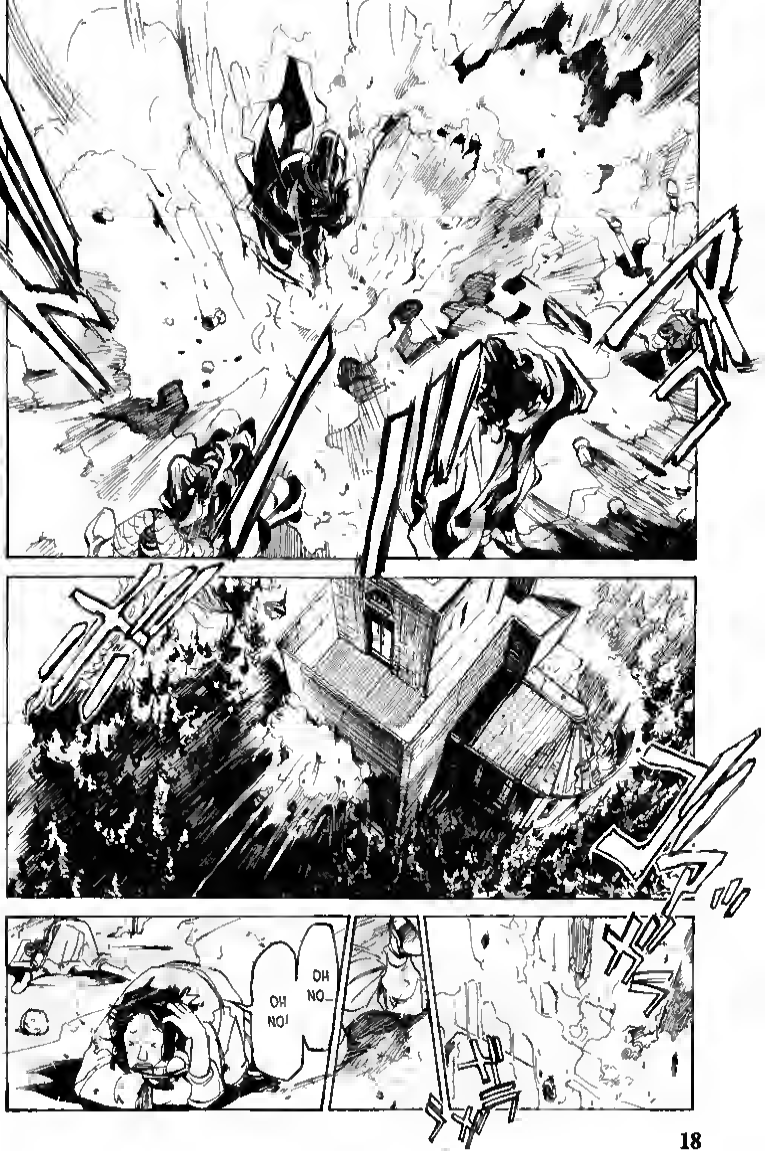
HEH.
A RELIGIOUS CLEANSING BASED ON AN OBSESSION OVER DIFFERING FORMS OF FAITH—
—IS NOT BASED ON FAITH.
IF THAT ISN'T A HERETICAL THING TO SAY...
I AM A SOLDIER OF GOD.
I GOT OVER MY DELUSIONAL FANTASIES OF PURGING AND MASSACRES YEARS AGO!
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF PARTICIPATING IN YOUR YOUTHFUL FOOLISHNESS!
.....
YOU LIKEN THE CLEANSING OF JEWS WITH OTHER MASSACRES...

--BUT THERE'S LITTLE REAL DIFFERENCE
--IT MAY LOOK LIKE A DIFFERENT FAITH--
YES--

AND NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU TALK ABOUT BRINGING HAPPINESS TO PEOPLE?
YOUR KIND HAVE BEEN MASSACRING PEOPLE FOR AGES!
.....

THERE ARE MANY WAYS--
--TO BRING HAPPI-NESS.

NOT SUDDENLY...
ASH!
!!
FINALLY.
HOW DARE YOU TRIVIALIZE THE 1,500 YEARS OF SUFFERING ---
--MY PEOPLE HAVE ENDURED!


OH NO!
OH NO_

WHITE SAND
ARE YOU OKAY, FRANCESCA ?
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING, JOAJIM.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE POWERS OF THE PRIEST BEFORE
ASHE
SALT?
IT'S SALTY.
---THAT HAS THE POWER TO BURN AND CLEANSE ALL THAT IS
IT IS THE SALT OF THE HOLOCAUST ---

THE MASSACRES ARE BASED ON THE BELIEFS OF YOUR RELIGION!
YOU AND YOUR BILE-PRODUCING NONSENSE
MADE ME BLOW HIM TO PIECES!
EVERY-ONE HERE IS A PILGRIM JÄGER,
SERVANTS OF THE MASSACRE, AS PRE-DICTED BY THE PROPHECY
ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH ME,
WILL BE BLOWN AWAY LIKE HE WAS
HA HA...
BLOWN AWAY

SO THAT IS THE POWER OF LA LUNA.
REMEMBER THAT, VERONICA.
SNICKER
GIGGLE
MR. LOYOLA SURVIVED--
--AN ATTACK BY CANNON!
DISTANCE OF ONE THOUSAND PACES.
.THAT IS THE POWER THAT GOD GAVE ME

HEY...
HOW DARE YOU—
...WALK ON THE AIR ABOVE MY HEAD
WOW
NOW NOW...
HAVE YOU NO MANNERS!
WALK ON THE AIR?
A JEWISH MAN DID YOU BECOME A PILGRIM BECAUSE YOU ENJOY WATCHING—
—CHRISTIANS KILL EACH OTHER, MR. ASHE?
...YOU!
DON'T MOVE.

!!!?
WOW !!?
CROGURA!
ANGER MAKES PEOPLE CRAZY
THE FIRST PERSON TO THROW A ROCK AT ME--
--WAS MY MOTHER, WHO WAS CRAZED WITH ANGER.
SHE CALLED ME A WITCH.

IF THE TWO OF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR ANGER--
TEMPESTARIA
UPON THE WRATH OF THE HEAVENS TO QUIET YOU
CROGURA
CROGURA
I'M SORRY.
I APPRECIATE IT.
IT'S OKAY, ASHE
I ACCEPT YOUR STRENGTHS AND YOUR FAULTS

OKAY!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
LET'S NOT FOCUS ON WHO OR WHAT WE ARE.
WE HAVE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS AT HAND.
WE HAVE ONLY ONE THING IN COMMON.
WE ARE ALL HERE BECAUSE OF OUR PROMISES TO ROME.
SO LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO GET OUR GOAL ACCOMPLISHED QUICKLY

Gathered, in the name of Rome

The winds of destiny and inevitability blow off the veil that hides the faces of this story.

Destiny and inevitability bring people together. Sometimes they come together to fight against each other, and other times, to fight alongside each other but always for their own goals and reasons.

No matter what winds may blow, always in the background was the one unchanging constant, Rome. Rome, where all power struggles began and ended. Whether one loved, hated, or used the city for personal gain, no one could ignore Rome. For Rome was not only the capital of the Christian world, it was order itself. It was because of Rome that the politics, religion, and culture of this era were what they were. No one was beyond the influence of Rome. Having the support of Rome and the Pope determined whether one would rise or fall. A family's fortune was determined by who occupied the Pope's chair. Everyone got sucked into the battles of and for Rome, regardless of who they were. Some fought to destroy Rome, some fought to protect Rome.

The 10 silver coins that were sent to the south were not all Christians, but they were all ready to fight to protect Rome. They all needed Rome to exist and prosper, whether to make their dreams come true, or pay their debts.

In these times when the sound of the widening crevice echoed through the world as the winds of destiny and inevitability grew stronger, what course would be the course of Rome and its glory?

Spain – a great flower waiting to blossom

At that time, there was no country named Spain. It had even been said that the Iberian Peninsula south of the Pyrenees was not considered to be part of Europe.

Spain, otherwise known as the Iberian Peninsula, had been under Muslim control for hundreds of years. Finally, after centuries of the Reconquista movement (reclamation), this territory was once again under Christian control. Because of this, in the cities of Spain, Christian churches, Jewish synagogues and Muslim mosques were often found side by side.

Due to the centuries of ongoing wars, the Spanish court did not have a home, it moved about the Iberian Peninsula. Spain did not even appear like a nation. There was no capital. It was culturally behind the times. When the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V came to the Spanish court, he asked for a pen and paper to record Spanish policies. He was told that they had no such things. The Humanist Erasmus, known for his book "Praise of Folly" claimed that there were no Christians in Spain, and refused an invitation from the Spanish court.

Fueled by their frustrations of being unable to participate in international politics, the Spanish poured their passions into improving their culture and country. And in order to prove that they were good Christians, they persecuted and massacred Jews and Muslims.

This was the state of Spain at the time, which later flourished during the great seafaring era, during which time their influence spread to virtually every corner of the Americas.

Ignatius De Loyola and Francis Xavier came from such a Spain. It was inevitable that they would clash, politically and religiously, with Ashe, who was a Jew.

Will they someday become a unified group, or will they be the ruin of each other?

As the battles across Europe were coming to an end, many countries were re-establishing order, others were destroyed and disappeared due to the fighting.

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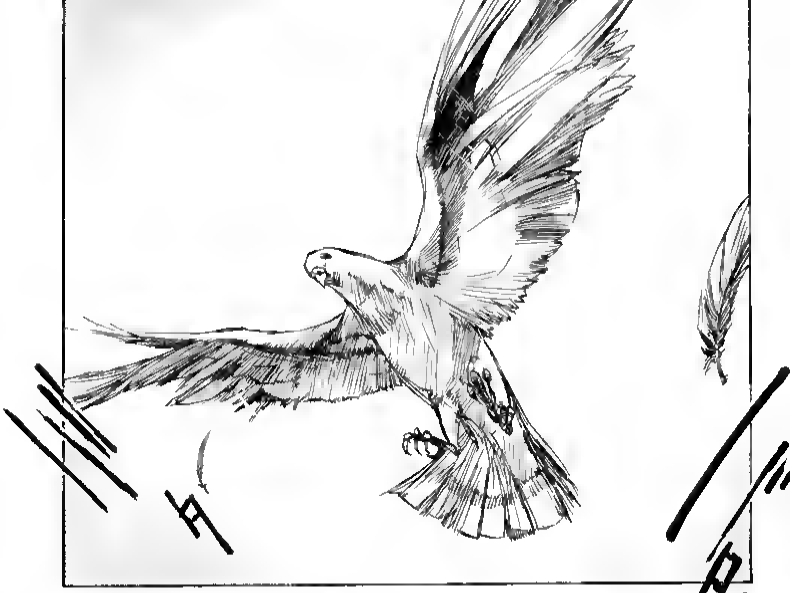
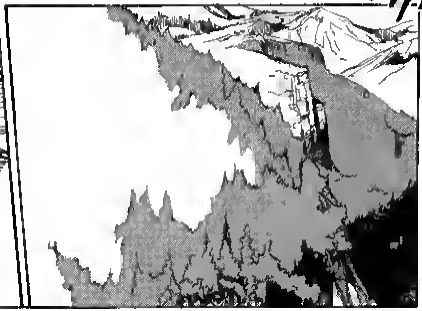
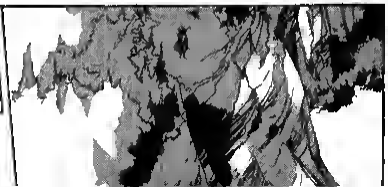


Anti; 02 God and Man



16th September 1521 Northern Italy



MISTRESS KATARINA?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD TO FLY WITH THAT WOUND.
BLOOD
TAKE MY PRAYERS TO THE ESTE FAMILY.
CAN YOU FLY?
!!
UH

バサ
ゴゴゴゴ
IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE AN ORDINARY BIRD.
I MISSED.

SO, THE MEDICI SOLDIERS CANNOT EVEN SHOOT DOWN A PIGEON.
--IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT TO SHOOT A WOUNDED ANIMAL.
I'D HAVE MY MEN CHASE IT BUT--
ARE YOU RELIEVED THAT IT WASN'T ME WHO WOUNDED IT--
--- AGATHA?
THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WORTHY OF THAT
I WISH YOU WOULD LOOK AT ME THE WAY YOU LOOKED AT THAT PIGEON.

SO THERE IS SOME-ONE!
CHRIST
WE THINK ALIKE
THE FIRST WOMAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH WAS MOTHER MARY.
MY HEART LEAPT WITH EXCITEMENT AT THE SIGHT OF THE INVINCIBLE MOTHER.
BLASPHE-MER!
I WANT US TO GET ALONG
LET'S PUT ASIDE OUR FAMILY HISTO-RIES.

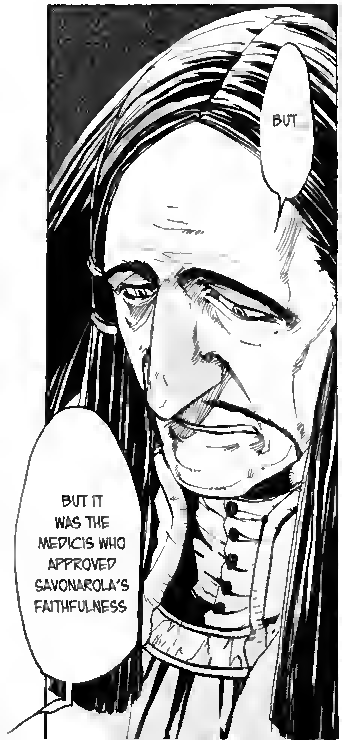
WE MIGHT END UP KILLING EACH OTHER.
.....
BE-SIDES
—I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING SEDUCED BY A MAN WHO HAS A WIFE AND CHILDREN.
16th September 1521
Florence
MY REPORT TO CARDINAL GIULIO—
SOON, I TOO WILL BE HEADING TO THE SOUTH...
STUBBORN

ALESSANDRO AGREES TOO.
THAT'S CORRECT, SERPENT.
—IS THAT RIGHT, KATARINA?
—SHOULD SAY THAT WE KNOW THE IDENTITIES OF 14 SILVER COINS—
WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO USE THE SILVER COINS THAT YOU ARE HIDING?
WHEN THE TIME COMES—
IF WE REPORT ALL THAT WE KNOW IT WILL ONLY CONFUSE THE CARDINAL.
WHEN THE FRIAR'S PROPHECIES ARE DECIPHERED IN THEIR ENTIRETY—
—OR—
WHEN THE TIME COMES—
IT CAN BE INCONVENIENT WHEN BOTH SIDES CAN READ MINDS
IS THE MATRIARCH OF THE ESTE FAMILY STILL PLANNING ON CARRYING OUT THE FORMER POPE'S AMBITIONS?

THE ESTES HAVE NO SUCH AMBI-TIONS.
WE JUST WANT PEACE AMONGST THE FAITHFUL.
UNLESS THERE IS PROOF THAT THE ESTES HAVE NO AMBITION TO DESTROY THE MEDICIS---
--
ALESSANDRO WON'T SHOW HIS CARDS
IT WOULD SUF-FICE
FOR YOU TO ALLOW US TO READ YOUR MISTRESS'S HEART
.....
YOU WANT ME TO MAKE MY MISTRESS
BEAR HER SOUL TO YOU?
ARE YOU ASKING ME TO GET HER TO EXPOSE ---
---HER DEEPEST SECRETS ?
THAT SHOULD NOT BE NECES-SARY,
---ALL THE ESTES WANT IS PEACE

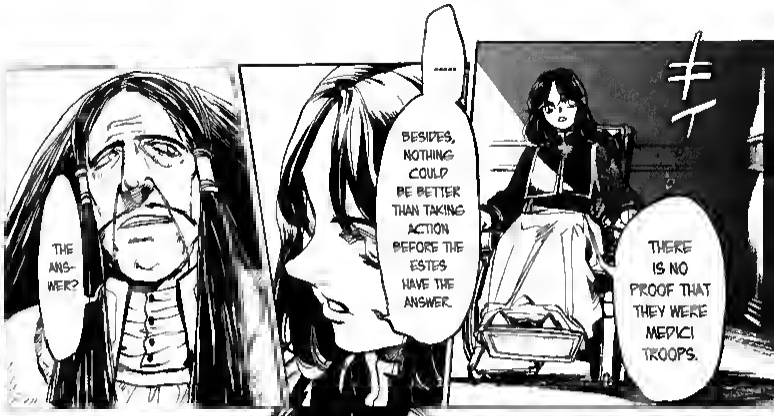
I PRAY THAT ALL OF THE ANSWERS ARE IN THE SOUTH.
INCLUDING MYSELF, MORE THAN HALF OF THE SILVER COINS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, BUT---
---ONLY 10 ARE HEADED SOUTH.
SIR, ALESSANDRO..
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, AGRIPPA ---
--UNLESS THE ESTES PROVE TO US THAT THEY WON'T BETRAY US.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE SILVER COINS MUST BE TO PROTECT THE MEDICIS
SIR.
IN THE PAST, THE MEDICIS MADE THE MISTAKE OF TRYING TO BUY THEIR ENEMIES
MIS-TAKE?
WHO WAS AT THE DEATHBED OF THE PATRIARCH OF THE MEDICIS, LORENZO?
I HEARD THAT HE DIED SURROUNDED BY MANY PHILOSOPHERS AND CLERGY.


BUT
BUT IT WAS THE MEDICIS WHO APPROVED SAVONAROLA'S FAITHFULNESS

AND ONE OF THE THEM WAS---
--- THE MAN WHO HAUNTS THE MEDICIS ---
--AND THE POPE.
OUR ENEMY, SAVONAROLA.

.....
BUT IT WASN'T ONLY SAVONAROLA THAT BETRAYED THE MEDICIS
.....
THAT IS WHY I DON'T EVEN TRUST THE SERPENT.
I WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES!
IF WE HAD TOTAL CONTROL, I WOULDN'T BE WORRIED ABOUT THE ESTES
THEY ARE FORMI-DABLE.
JUST THE OTHER DAY, THE SOLDIERS I SENT IN TO THE ESTES WERE DEFEATED.
ARE YOU SURE THEY WEREN'T JUST FANNING THE FLAMES OF THE ANIMOSITY TO GET BACK AT YOU?


THE ANSWER?
BESIDES, NOTHING COULD BE BETTER THAN TAKING ACTION BEFORE THE ESTES HAVE THE ANSWER.

THERE IS NO PROOF THAT THEY WERE MEDICI TROOPS.
ﾈﾄ

THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON WHY THE ESTES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS BATTLE.
THE DECEASED BROTHER OF THE ESTE MATRIARCH.

THE MAN WHO DIED DREAMING OF RULING ITALY.
I WANT TO SEE IF HE WAS—
—ONE OF THE SEVEN GREAT SINNERS.
IF HE WAS, IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THE ESTES WILL BETRAY US.
IF THEY SAY IT ISN'T TRUE,
THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS ALLOW THEM TO READ THE HEART OF OUR MISTRESS.
KATARINA PRETENDS TO BE LOYAL BUT—
LOYAL ?
SHE'S JUST PROTECTING HER MISTRESS'S SECRET
SECRET ?
DON'T YOU KNOW? IT'S A FAMOUS SCANDAL.

A SCANDAL?
IT'S JUST RUMOR BUT...
THE MISTRESS OF ESTE AND HER BROTHER WERE LOVERS.
SIBLINGS?
A PERVERTED LOVE!
THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS ASIDE—
—I WOULD LOVE TO TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THE HEAD OF SUCH A WOMAN.
BUT, WOULDN'T THAT MAKE HER CLOSE HER HEART OFF EVEN MORE?
YES

THEN---
--WE'LL HAVE TO BEAT IT OPEN.

THAT IS THE ONLY WAY---
--TO TRULY UNDERSTAND ANOTHER'S HEART.

THIS CHILD ACQUIRES "POWERS," ACTS LIKE AN ADULT,—
—AND SPEWS VENOM.
IS IT POSSI-BLE—
—THAT SAVONAROLA'S HATRED IS NOT THE ONLY FORCE?
I CAN SEE THE PERVERSION SPREADING.

TEST-ING MIC. TEST-ING
AH AH AH AH AH
B-
BUON-
GIOR-
NO
AH AH KA-
KA KA GA

I DO REALIZE THERE IS MUCH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.
GGZZ
WW-ZZZZ-THE SILVER COINS HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED.
I CAN HEAR YOU, PARACELSUS.
GG
GRAZIE!!
OKAY!
I CAN HEAR YOU TOO!
HOW IS THE COMMUNICATION HOMUNCULUS?
IT'S ANNOYING TO THE EAR.
TH-THEY TRIED TO KILL EACH OTHER ABOUT 4 TIMES, BUT NO ONE HAS DIED SO FAR.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANYONE DIE ON THIS TRIP TO THE SOUTH.
ZZZSSSOO YOU PLAN TO BRING THE JAGERS, UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF THE SERPENT
EVEN THE SILVER COINS IN THE SOUTH?
YES.
I SEE.
I TAKE IT THE THREE NAILS ARE STILL NOT GETTING ALONG

C-C-CAN I ASK JUST ONE QUESTION?
EVEN THE SMALLEST DOUBTS CAN HAVE FATAL CONSEQUENCES.
THE ABILITY TO READ MINDS IS USELESS.
WHAT?
D-D-
DOES THE SERPENT BELIEVE—
—THAT ROME SHOULD F-F-F-ALL?
.....
...WHAT?

I HEARD IT WAS REVENGE.
THAT ONE OF THE SEVEN GREAT SINNERS HAD A GRUDGE.
...WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
AH-HAH
YOU CAN'T READ MY MIND FROM A DISTANCE.
AAH!
DON'T BREAK IT! DON'T BREAK IT!
ALESSANDRO, FOLD ME.
ALESSAN-DRO...
I MISSED THAT BIT OF INFOR-MATION.

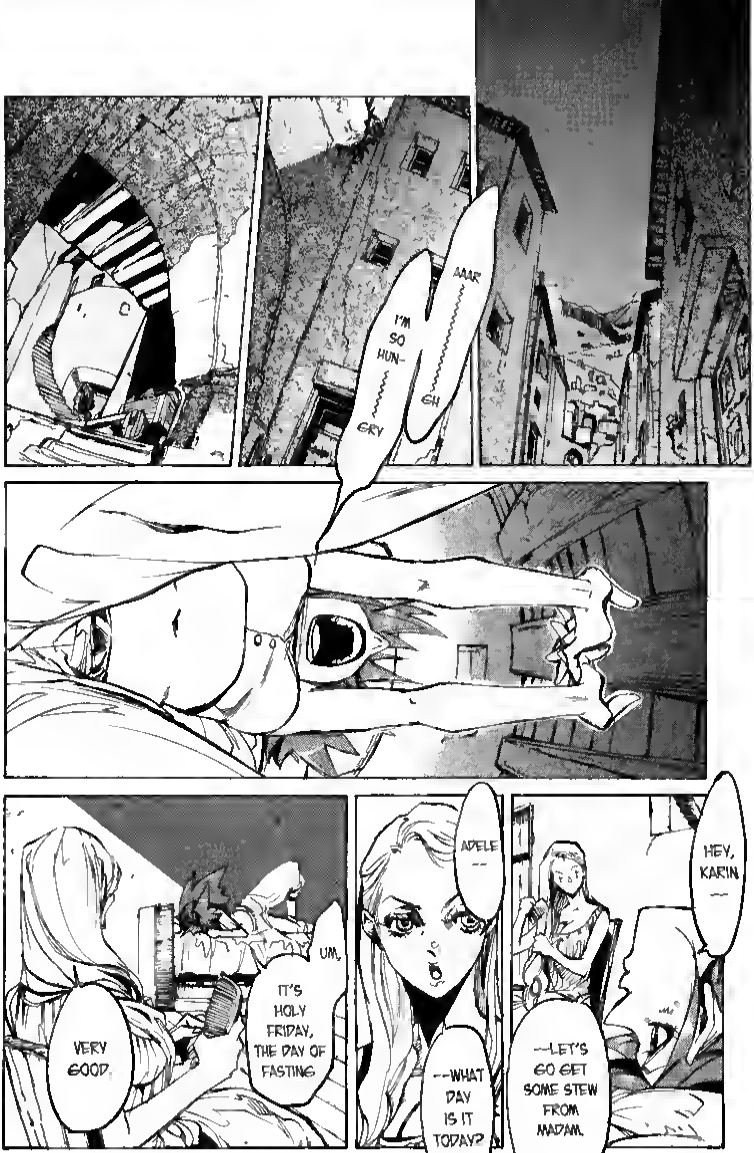
A SCOUT HAS APPROACHED ME
HE ASKED ME IF I WAS INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR HIM ALONGSIDE AGRIPPA.
HOW DID YOU ANSWER?
G- SERPENT
---I'M NOT INTERESTED, SO..
WELL, EVEN IF THEY OFFERED TO MAKE ME THE MEDICI FAMILY DOCTOR---
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ROME YOU SEE
I JUST REALLY LIKE THIS "SERPENT" PERSON...
I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY TO SEE INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING THINGS, WORKING FOR THE SERPENT.
THEN STAY FOCUSED ON SURVIVING
THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A LOT HARDER.

WHAT IS IT?
OOOOAH I HAVE A LITTLE MORE OF YOUR TIME, SERPENT?
ONE OF THE SEVEN GREAT SINNERS IS THE TARGET OF REVENGE—
IFF—
—AND
WWWE THIS PERSON IS KILLED —
—WILL THAT PUT AN END TO THE SERPENT'S AMBI-TIONS?
THERE IS MORE THAN ONE TARGET OF REVENGE
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE YOU CAN ENJOY KILLING
HEH HEH HEH
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR

I-SSO.
ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE?
ALL SEVEN OF THEM.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO IT IS?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
ZZZZ
...
...PLUS ONE MORE.

THAT
—IS THE CITY OF PICCIO.
17 September 1521 Naples, the Aelnus plains

SIR, MASTER PUFUA...
IT IS A GOOD TOWN.
THE PREDICTED DAY IS COMING
GATHER THE FOLLOWERS OF THE PEACOCK ---
SIR.
AS THE GREAT SINNER, PEACOCK WISHES...


AAAR
I'M SO HUN-
GRY
GH
HEY, KARIN ——
——LET'S GO GET SOME STEW FROM MADAM.
ADELE ——
——WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY?
UM,
IT'S HOLY FRIDAY, THE DAY OF FASTING
VERY GOOD.

WE'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF SUSPICION LATELY...
...IF WE DON'T SHOW THAT WE ARE DEVOTED, THEY'LL TREAT US LIKE WITCHES
GOD MAY BE WATCHING US, BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO HELP US.
SO,
WE HAVE TO HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TO PROVE IT TO THE PRIESTS AT THE CHURCH WHO SERVE GOD.
THAT'S WEIRD.
BUT
GOD KNOWS THAT WE'RE GOOD, DOESN'T HE?
I'M GOING TO BED
I'M BORED

HEH.
NO ONE'S REALLY AFRAID OF GOD.
PEOPLE ARE A LOT SCARIER THAN GOD.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HERE, EAT THESE
I WONDER WHO THAT WAS...
TH-
THANK YOU!

Anti, 02 / Fin

Dictatorship and alliance – what brought the Renaissance to existence?

The Renaissance was an era of war. Dictatorship and alliances shaped the politics of these times.

In order to survive and overcome the ever worsening wars between cities, every city in Italy sought to find a Signore to rule and remedy the many problems that existed.

Strong rule, in the form of dictatorship, was sought to replace the orderless democracy, which had no center of power. This dictatorial system was known as "Segnoria". Eight leaders would be chosen as representatives of various guilds with the ninth becoming the gonfaloniere or standard bearer. In order to be considered for office you had to be older than thirty years, couldn't be in debt, served a term recently or be related to any others currently holding office. Their terms were limited to only two months. In cities across Italy, powerful men competed against one another. In Florence, it was the Medicis, and in Ferrara it was the Estes who won and came to rule their respective cities.

It was not only in the political arena that the role of dictator was fought over. These power positions were sought in Universities and churches as well. Winning meant power, but it also meant being responsible for ensuring prosperity. For good or bad, this dictatorial system thrust the nation into an era of explosive feuding amongst local lords.

As the number of dictators increased, it was not only the fighting that escalated. The need for alliances also grew. Alliances were regularly formed and broken for personal gain.

The dictators never knew when their allies or the people would betray them. Deception was considered a way of life– it was neither good nor bad. Lying and cheating were necessary to survive. Profit and prosperity bought trust. Those who trusted others unconditionally were either naive or lazy.

In many situations, dictatorship led to a dangerous and potentially fatal situation: isolation. After the dust settled, and the struggle for power was overcome, many dictators found themselves utterly alone and isolated – politically, socially, and personally. This isolation of the heart destroyed many rulers.

It was in this environment that the Three Nails each tried to fulfill their responsibilities.

What kind of dictator would the Silver Coins choose? Or what kind of dictator would they strive to become?

The man - made human and the printing press

There is a strange legend. A man made human (homunculus) was finally created by mixing horse manure and sperm with various metals. Unlikely as it may sound, the fact that the man who conducted this experiment was a doctor named Paracelsus lends credence to this myth.

Paracelsus was both a doctor and an alchemist. He became a military doctor in his twenties, and traveled through much of Europe treating wounded soldiers. Everywhere he went he absorbed new information. Having observed the effects of metals on the human body while visiting various mines, Paracelsus became curious and began conducting experiments.

It is entirely possible that, in all of his experimentation, he actually created a man made human of sorts.

Paracelsus, Agrippa, and many other highly renowned alchemists spent much of their lives trying to create gold and elixirs of eternal life. None succeeded. However, there was one thing that they did help to create, that still affects our lives today.

Compiling all of their knowledge on metals and alchemy gave birth to printing technology. The printing press and printing technology, developed by Gutenberg, spread through Europe where it was greatly improved upon, especially in Venice and Flanders.

It was thanks to the printing press that linguistics became popular. It also created the spark for academics and learning, and therefore the Renaissance. If it were not for the alchemists, none of this would have happened.

Although the alchemists were unable to create gold or find the secret to eternal life, they did help to spread the written word in the form of newspapers and books through the printing press, thereby giving life to something even bigger -- philosophy, history, religion, and science.

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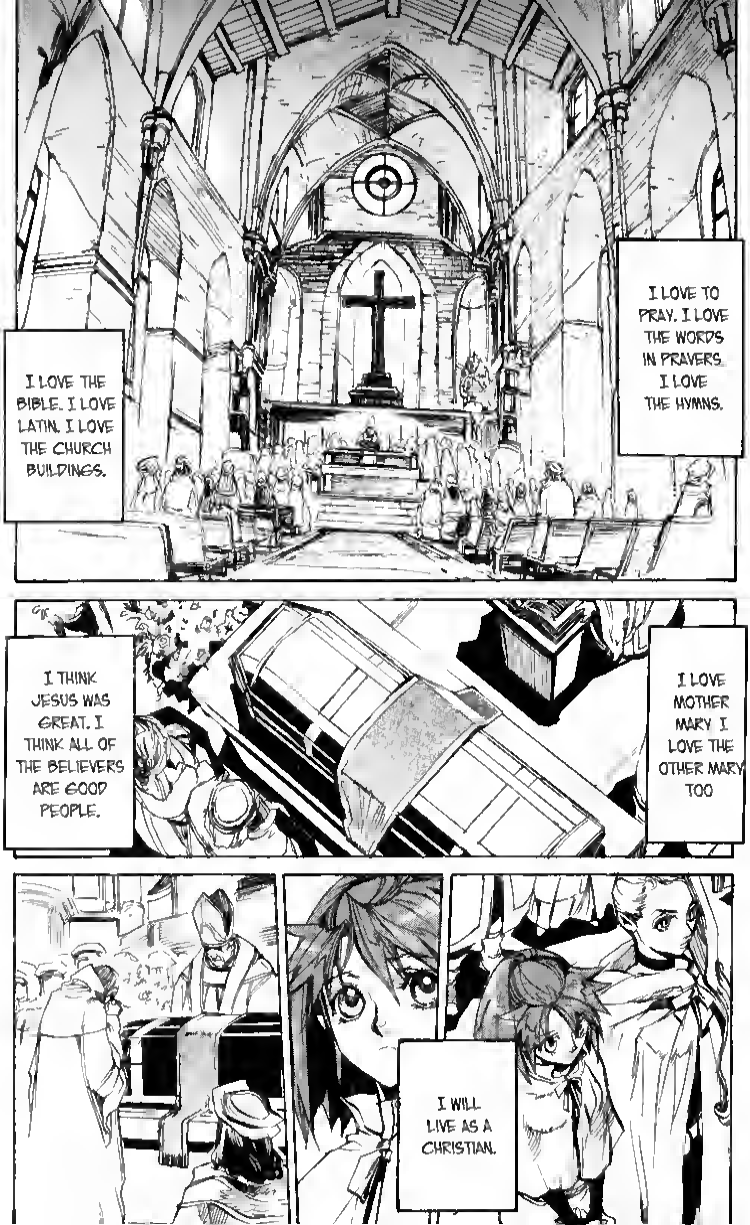

I LOVE THE BIBLE. I LOVE LATIN. I LOVE THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.
I LOVE TO PRAY. I LOVE THE WORDS IN PRAYERS. I LOVE THE HYMNS.
I THINK JESUS WAS GREAT. I THINK ALL OF THE BELIEVERS ARE GOOD PEOPLE.
I LOVE MOTHER MARY I LOVE THE OTHER MARY TOO
I WILL LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN.

Anti; 03 Have Mercy 1

BUT
THE IDENTITY
OF THE MAN WHO WAS POSSESSED BY THE CHICKEN-MONSTER
HAS BEEN DISCOV-ERED
19 September 1521 Naples – Aelnus principality

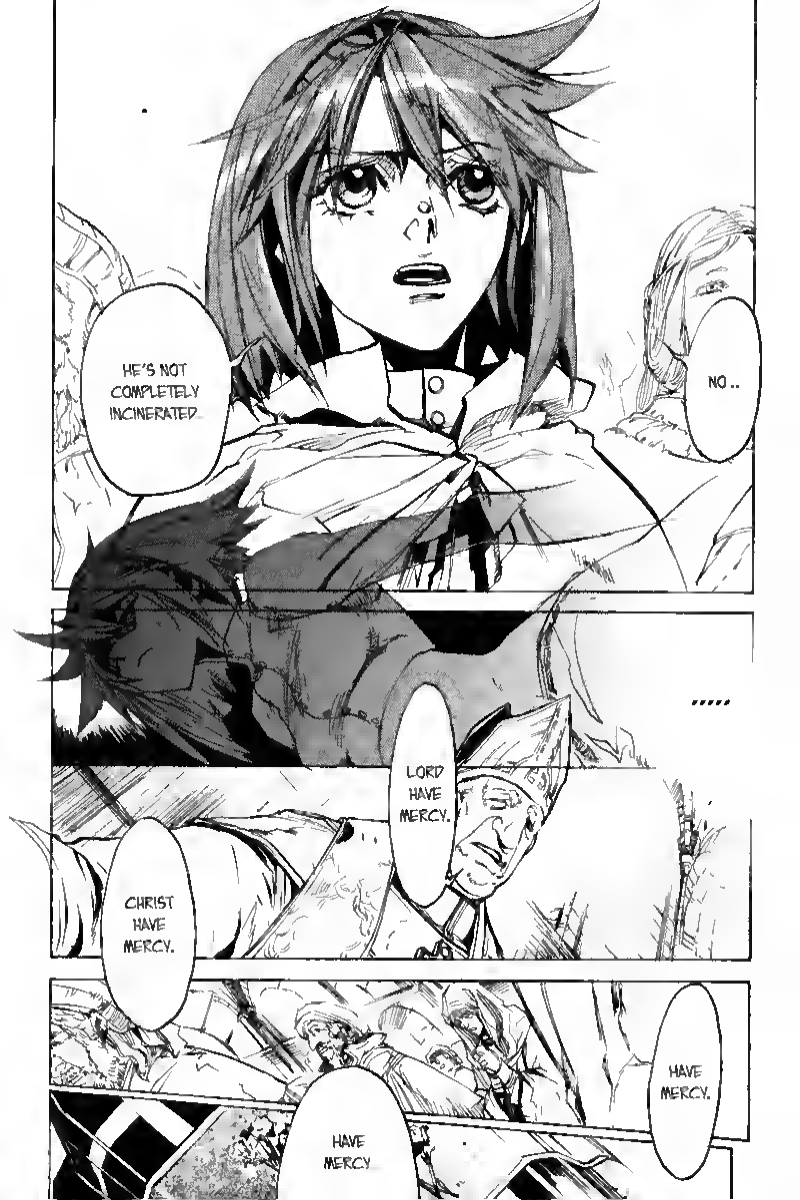
A PRAYER AT MASS... HE MUST HAVE BEEN HIGH RANKING
CHURCH
HE WAS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH BANK.
A PRAYER WILL BE SAID FOR HIM AT [redacted] TODAY.
IT HAS COME TO LIGHT THAT HE IS A MAN AFFILIATED WITH THE CHURCH
AFTER EXAMINING THE CITY'S MISSING PERSON'S LIST
I WANTED YOU TO KNOW BECAUSE,
WE'LL CONTINUE TO NEED YOUR HELP IN THE FUTURE.
--WHY ARE YOU TELLING US THIS?
WH--

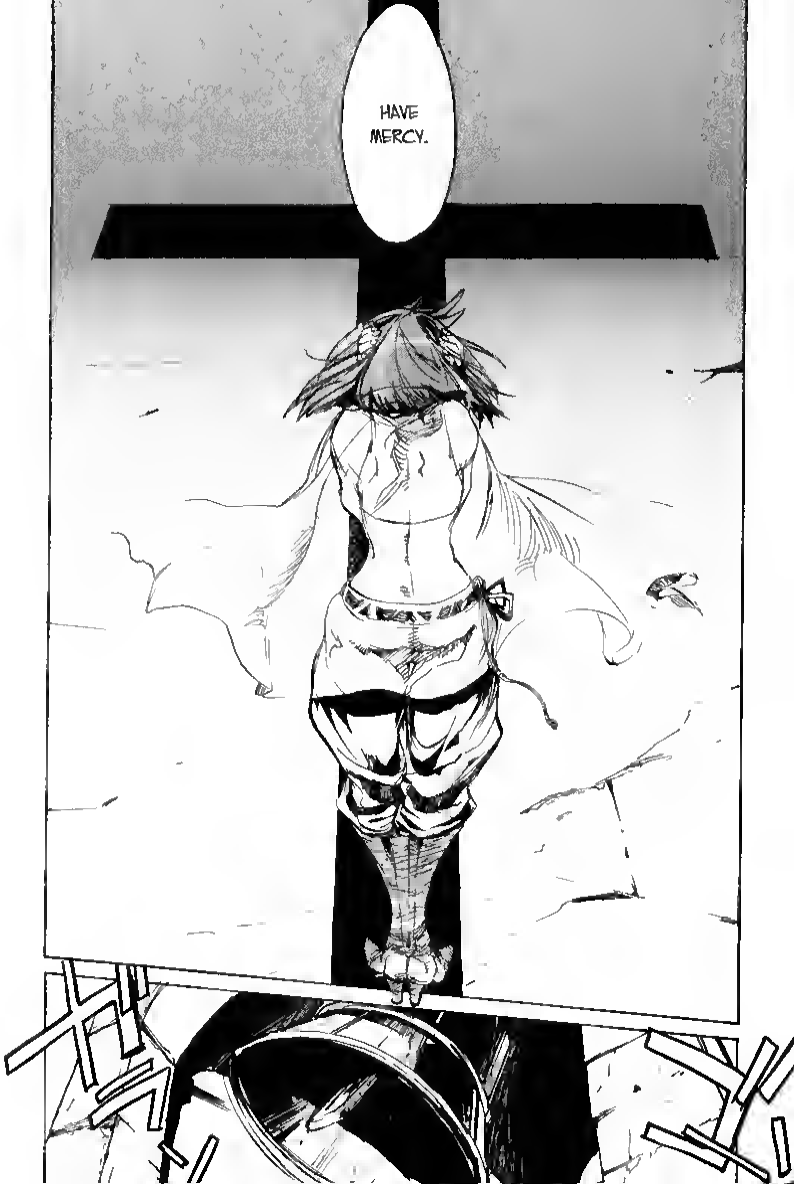
IN — THE — FUTURE
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW.
I'VE TOLD THE CHURCH THAT HE FELL IN THE RIVER AND DROWNED
THE RIVER...?
YES, THE RIVER.
THAT'S ALL THEY NEED TO KNOW.
DID HE—
—DID HE HAVE ANY FAMILY?
YES, BUT—
—THEY'RE ALL MISSING.

THE WRITING IN BLOOD THAT THE POSSESSED MAN LEFT ON THE WALL.
IT WON'T WASH OFF
deus ille princeps, parens rerum fabricatorque mundi,...
God is the creator of all things...
"...nullo magis hominem separativit a ceteris, quae quidem mortalia sunt, animalibus, quam dicendi facultate
He holds the power to determine the difference between man and animal and all things that live and die

MEN, UNLIKE ANIMALS, CAN TALK ABOUT GOD BECAUSE OF THAT, THEIR SINS ARE EVEN GREATER.
BY EXPLAINING DEMONIC POSSESSION ---
---ARE THEY REALLY CLAIMING THAT THEY ARE THE DEVIL?
SOMEONE FROM THE CHURCH HAS BEEN POSSESSED
I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PRAY THAT WE WON'T GET SUCKED IN ANY FURTHER.
LET'S GO.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE FOR US TO SEE

---MAY THE LORD ACCEPT THIS OFFERING OF HIS SOUL.
MAY THE ANGELS OF GOD RECEIVE HIS SOUL---
THE ONLY THING IN THAT BOX IS A BUNCH OF ASHES.
YOU INCINERATED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
HA! HA!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF HIS SOUL.


HE'S NOT COMPLETELY INCINERATED
NO..
.....
LORD HAVE MERCY.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.
HAVE MERCY.
HAVE MERCY


HAVE MERCY.

I LOVE JESUS I LOVE MOTHER MARY. I LOVE THE FAITHFUL.
I LOVE PRAYERS I LOVE HYMNS I LOVE THE BIBLE
THE TOWN HAS PAID US FOR THE WITCH BURNING
PLEASE SAVE ME.
I SEE
OUR REVENUES HAVE GONE UP THIS MONTH.
BE GENER-OUS!
I DON'T LIKE THE SCALES
THE SOUND OF MONEY BEING PLACED ON THE SCALES OPENS THE DOORS TO HEAVEN.
MAY MY SINS BE FORGIVEN.
I DON'T LIKE PRIESTS. I DON'T LIKE THE CHURCH'S ARMY

ALL OF CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS ARE...
WHY DON'T THEY SAY ANYTHING TO ME? I BURNED HIM.
ADELE!!
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT HERE!

RUMOR HAS IT HE WAS STEALING FROM THE CHURCH.
SO I'M SURE GOD WAS PUNISHING HIM.
CAN'T YOU THINK OF IT THAT WAY?
.....
GOD'S PUNISHMENT?
JUST FOR STEALING MONEY?
BECAUSE HE'S A CHRISTIAN?
YES
SOME PEOPLE ARE BURNED AT THE STAKE FOR STEALING MONEY.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU BURNED AT THE STAKE
OKAY

DON'T YOU GET IT YET?
THE CHURCH MAKES MONEY BY ABSOLVING YOUR SINS.
IF THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH'S BANK IS DEAD, THEN THE ARMY GETS CONTROL OF THE MONEY.
WHO DO YOU THINK STANDS TO GAIN THE MOST FROM THE WITCH-HUNTS?
PEOPLE THROW MONEY AT THE SCALES TO ATTAIN THEIR INDULGENCES--
--BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE, JUST THE CHURCH--WHERE THE DEVIL WAITS, LICKING HIS LIPS...
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN.

I'M GOING TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN.
SNAP OUT OF IT!
YOU'RE PERFORMING THIS AFTERNOON, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF IF YOU'RE NOT FOCUSED!
OH.
YEAH.

COME ON;
LET'S GET TO WORK.
DON'T DO ANY-THING ELSE
WE SHOULDN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE
ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY.
KARIN TOUCHED ME

CAN I HELP YOU?
!!
OUCH!

YOU'RE THE FORTUNE TELLER WHO'S BEEN IN SERVICE AT THE ALBERTI'S
YOU'RE THE ONE, RIGHT?
SERVICE?
YEAH.
WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE COMMISARIO'S?
SO-O, HOW DID YOU CON THAT STIFF COMMISARIO INTO IT, HUH?
TELL US, WHAT'S YOUR TRICK?
I JUST...
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG.
HUH?

WHAT?!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
OH!
THAT'S GOTTA HURT
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

WE KNOW HOW MUCH YOU GIVE AT MASS.
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ALL THE GOOD CLIENTS?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL US ..
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW HIM—
—WHAT YOU DO?
I'M NOT LIKE YOU
HIGH AND MIGHTY... AREN'T WE?
YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN WE ARE!
YOU GIVE US YOUR RICH CLIENTS AND—
—GO FIND YOURSELF A SPOT UNDER THE BRIDGE

WHAT'S SO FUNNY!
YOU...!
YOU'RE RIGHT, WE ARE THE SAME...
NO ONE WOULD MISS US IF WE DISAPPEARED.
WH—
THAT'S WHAT MADE ME LAUGH.
FINE, I'LL TELL YOU.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I DO THERE.

The miserable (il misero)

At the time, there was no act more important than prayer. This was true for many reasons.

In addition to praying for something specific, prayer was also a way to prove that one was a good Christian, and an upstanding citizen.

Many methods of prayer were published and popularized throughout Europe. One method was to beat one's self while praying– to feel one's pitifulness in the flesh. Prayer was meant to make people realize how sinful they were.

On the one hand, the idea of sin and penance was growing, yet a new concept was beginning to develop: man was not entirely pitiful and lowly.

This conflict between Reason and Faith brought about the religious revolution of the Renaissance. It used to be that Reason existed for the sake of Faith. But at some point, the two became separate notions– and evolved into separate disciplines: theology, philosophy, and science. It seemed that a vast, open plain had opened up between Faith and Reason.

"Human" and "Respect" were powerful concepts. As the notion of the individual was re-examined, it was believed that man could understand God through Reason. This set Reason and Faith on a collision course once again, re-opening the question of man's existence.

The characters in our story prayed quietly, sometimes desperately– to find the answer to the question: does man pray because he is miserable and pitiful, or because he is worthy?

Money in the Renaissance

As can be gleaned from the mere existence of the Church Bank, the Church was a full participant in the monetary economy and their congregations were all for purchase

Until the 11th century when the monetary economy began to take shape, Europe had a barter system Taxes and levies were paid in goods At times, even cows and horses served as currency

"To give, receive and re-pay" had been a cornerstone of the Church and society Christians willingly gave to those who were too poor to repay their debts, with the expectation that they would collect on their debts in Heaven

However, as cities began to grow, food clothing and lodging were expected to be paid for in money

Even as hard currency became popular, levies were still paid in goods and the people were able to save their money Goods would rot, but money did not, and therefore, could be saved As a result, some people became extremely wealthy almost as wealthy as the king and lords This upped the balance of society, making it unstable As the battles over acquisition of money increased, the Church found itself needing to adapt to keep up

The Church collected money in the form of tithing, and in exchange those who gave were given access to the stairway to Heaven This access came in the form of Indulgences

In virtually every city the Church and the markets formed secret alliances, enabling them to control the price of goods Banks were created to store the money that they had collected and saved

The philosophy "To give, receive, and re-pay" was replaced by a new philosophy "to buy and sell" The new economy allowed regular people to acquire goods that in the past only the King and the lords could have This was the beginning of a breakdown in the order of social status

This was the dawn of an age where money controlled everything

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I'LL TELL YOU.
FINE.
I'LL TELL YOU HOW I MAKE MY MONEY.

HA!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?!
YOU JUST STAY UNDER THE BRIDGE!
DON'T YOU EVER SHOW YOUR FACE IN THE TOWN SQUARE AGAIN!
THAT IS THE BEST PLACE...

WHAT?
TO THROW AWAY YOUR DEAD BODIES.
UNDER THE BRIDGE ---
--WHERE THE TOWN GARBAGE GETS DUMPED.

WHAT?
WHA!
HUH?
Y-YOU...
YOUR FACE!
YOUR FACE!
AH!
WHA!
WH-
WHAT!?
MY MOTHER WAS A WHORE
EEE!

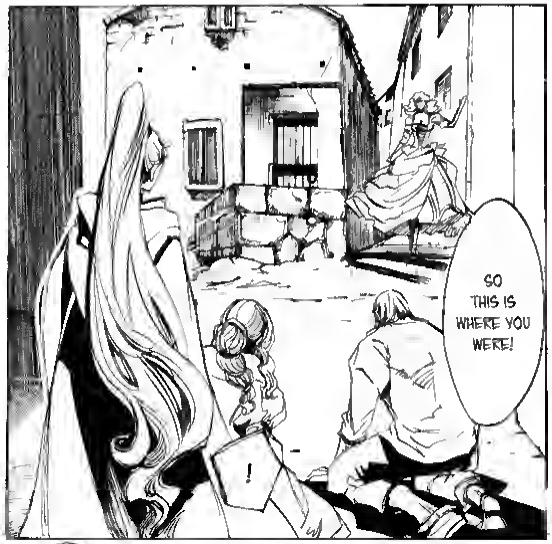
"WE NEED A BACKER", "IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD"
THOSE WERE MY MOTHER'S MOTTOS
I-
UG!
SHE WAS CRAFTY AND VIOLENT LIKE YOU...
SHE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE
UH!
GG
ERG
HYA!
GWAA!

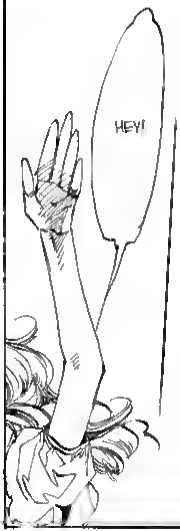
MY MOTHER TRIED TO TURN ME INTO A WHORE TOO, BUT--
A A A
AH!!

SHE WAS APPALLED AT HER DAUGHTER WHO WOULD FILL HER CUSTOMERS WITH NAILS.
SO SHE TREATED ME LIKE A WITCH.
MY MOTHER GOT PAID A LOT OF MONEY, AND I WAS PLACED BEHIND THE STONE WALL OF A NUNNERY.
SHE WAS BESIDE HERSELF WITH JOY THAT SHE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A VIRTUOUS GIRL.
AND THEN SHE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF SELLING ME OFF AS A PURE GIRL OF VIRTUE.
HYAA!
MY EYES! MY EYES!
EEYYA!

AAAH!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU REMIND ME OF MY MOTHER, AND IT MAKES ME SICK.
EEE!
AHH! GET THESE NAILS OUT OF ME!
AND IN THE END--
--I FEEL LIKE I'M LIVING JUST LIKE MY MOTHER DID.

!!?
!?
H-
HUH?
MY EYES,
MY EYES..
?
THE THREE-POINTED STAR NAILS OF LIGHT AND DARK A SIGN OF BEDAZZLEMENT AND NIGHTMARES.
THEY'RE JUST AN ILLUSION.
NEXT TIME--
.....
!!
--
THEY WILL BE REAL.


SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE!
!


HEY!

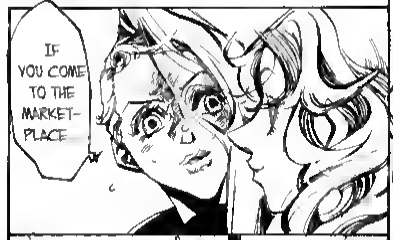
THE BATHHOUSE OWNER WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.
WELL...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SIRENETTA
?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHO'S THIS?
N-
NOTHING.
UM...
SOME CHURCH SOLDIERS SHOWED UP AT THE BATH HOUSE.
WE'D BETTER HURRY.
HEY, WAIT UP!
HEH.
MON-
STER!
BE CAREFUL!

THERE ARE SO MANY PROSTITUTES THESE DAYS.
YOU POOR THING
HUH?

EVERYONE'S FIGHTING OVER CUSTOMERS
SIGH...
THEY'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET THE NEW GIRL.
.....
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
IT'S NOTHING.
.....
HERE YOU GO, KARIN ATLANTIC.
THANK YOU.
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
YOU'RE THE FAMOUS FORTUNE TELLER, RIGHT?
I'VE HEARD YOU'RE REALLY GOOD
I'M MARGARETA LA SIRENETTA.

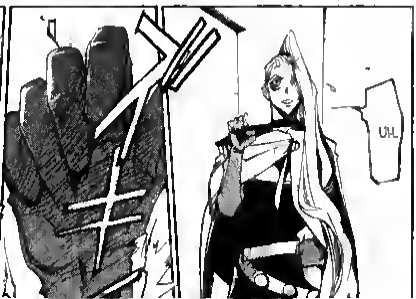
WILL YOU READ MY FORTUNE SOMETIME?
LIKE IF I'M GOING TO MEET SOMEONE NICE...


IF YOU COME TO THE MARKET-PLACE

GREAT! THANKS!

I'M A COUNTRY GIRL PROSTITUTE!
I'VE GOT A GREAT BODY, BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE ME MUCH MONEY...
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME?

OUCH.


UH.

A COIN ENGRAVED WITH AN 8-SIDED STAR.
AN OMINOUS SIGN OF LYING, TRICKERY AND SCHEMING.
STOP!
YOU MADE THEM DO IT, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?

YOU GOT THOSE WHORES WORKED UP SO THEY WOULD ATTACK ME.
YOU!
HMM?
YOU ARE GOOD.
YOU ARE A SUSPICIOUS ONE, AREN'T YOU?
DO PEOPLE TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE A DARK PERSON?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME.
WHY DID YOU MAKE THEM COME AFTER ME?
HMMM.
MAYBE BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE WHAT YOU WERE LIKE WHEN YOU'RE MAD.

Anti; 04 / Fin

Under the Bridge

The rivers that ran under the bridges in cities were not clean, pretty rivers. Most were like sewers where garbage and other filthy things were dumped.

Because people would throw garbage, human waste, and rotten food out of their windows, every time it rained it would get washed into the rivers, spreading stench and epidemics. It would be impossible to do any sort of business under the bridges. Rather, it was an insult– a way of saying that someone was garbage.

Prostitute (cortigiana) – the dawn

From around the 15th century the word "cortigiana", which originally meant "lady of the court" came to mean "prostitute". It was because of the Vatican that the word for a woman of high society came to mean prostitute. At the time there were over 2000 households with single women – and there was one reason why so many single women gathered in power centers. To offer the clergy and the Humanists a love that could be purchased.

Many Humanists gathered in Rome, where they created salons, where they would sit and exchange ideas on culture and philosophy. They sought women to add color to their daily gatherings. They looked for more than beauty, they looked for intelligent women who could be educated, and taught to appreciate poetry. As a result, many young prostitutes were educated in the arts of the Renaissance by the Humanists. That is how the "Ladies of the Court", in other words, the "high class prostitutes" came into being.

At times the education of these "high class prostitutes" surpassed even that of the Humanists. Some possessed not only ravishing beauty, but were able to speak close to 19 languages, paint like a master, write poetry in Latin, converse on philosophy and history, and win duels against men who looked down upon prostitutes. Some were even read their last rites by the Pope himself. There were prostitutes who had the virtues and talents of a true Renaissance man.

Courtesan (cortigiana) – the development

Along with the moniker "cortigiana" (which originally meant "lady of the court") came a luxurious lifestyle, good education, and grace. Some parents sought to train and educate their daughters specifically to become prostitutes.

As the number of prostitutes increased in Rome and throughout Europe, even the lower class prostitutes came to be called "cortigiana." There was a wide range of prostitutes: from lower class prostitutes, often referred to as "candle prostitutes," to ones who lived like queens.

These cortigiana were one of the pillars of Renaissance culture. It could even be said that Italy would not have been the same without them.

Prostitution was becoming so fashionable that Veronica, one of the top prostitutes of Venice said, "To force this horrible slave like life upon anyone is a condemnation to a life of misery, and is inhumane", to dissuade parents from turning their daughters into prostitutes.

The cortigiana's "education" was examined in great detail: from they way to dye one's hair, what clothes to buy, how to rent a room, and how to borrow money. Many success stories were told and repeated, and became the foundation for cortigiana education.

The "art of conversation" was thoroughly studied, and many methods of deception were developed. Cortigiana would carefully take note of men's reactions to the strange things they did and said, discovering and uncovering their weaknesses. They would make the man theirs by demanding gifts, forcing them into debt, and taking everything from them: their homes, their furniture, and even their servants.

Some were overtly violent. The Renaissance demanded that they too find the knowledge and the strength to survive the battles of this era.

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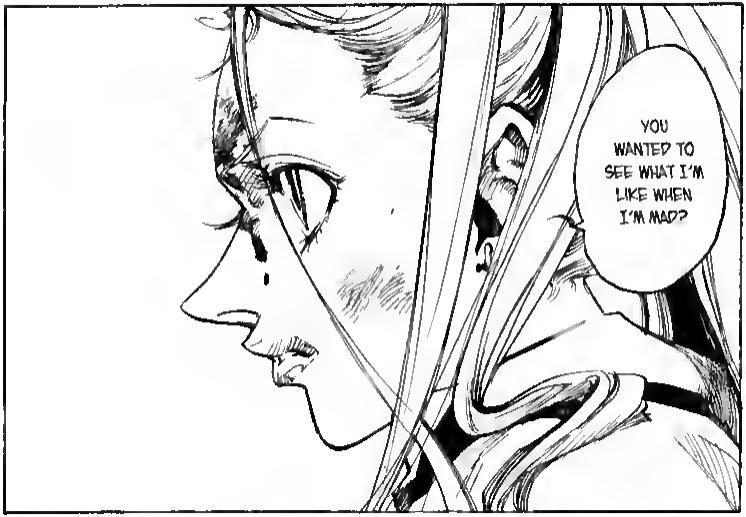
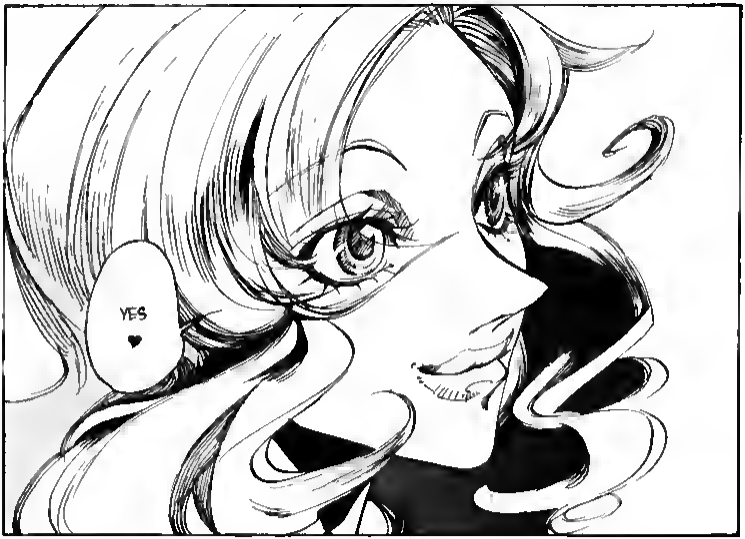


Anti; 05 Have Mercy 3



AND THAT'S WHY YOU SET THOSE PROSTITUTES AGAINST ME?
I HAD THIS STRANGE FEELING..
I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU WENT UP AGAINST EACH OTHER, SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN.
NOT SO MUCH THEM AGAINST YOU--
--BUT YOU AGAINST THEM.

YOU KNOW,
THOSE SILENT STONE-FACE TYPES WHO LOVE TO LECTURE PEOPLE THEY THINK ARE WEAKER THAN THEY ARE?
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
YOU'RE SAYING I'M LIKE THAT?
WHENEVER I SEE SOMEONE LIKE THAT--
--IT MAKES ME WANT TO STIR THINGS UP A BIT.
♥
H-
HOW DARE YOU MAKE FUN OF ME!

OH, YOU'RE MAD!
HOW CUTE.
DID YOU COME TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME OR SOMETHING!?
I JUST WANTED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
LIFE IS SO BORING IF WE'RE TOO SERIOUS.
STOP!
.....

HEY...
DO YOU KNOW---
---WHAT YOUR GENERATION POWER IS?
THE POWER TO MAKE THINGS COME OUT OF YOUR HANDS AND YOUR BODY---
---LIKE YOUR NAILS.
WHAT?

WHO ARE YOU?
THEY MELTED!?
I'M MARGARETA LA SIRENETTA.
A MERMAID--
--BORN IN VENICE.

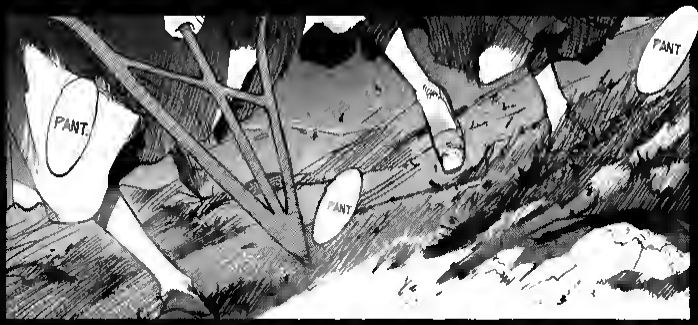
IF YOU WANT TO CATCH ME—
—MAKE YOUR MIND AND YOUR BODY BECOME ONE, TURN INTO BUBBLES, AND DISAPPEAR ♥
WELL—
SEE YOU! ♥
UH...
W-
WAIT!
I HAVE NO FAMILY; I HAVE NO HOME...

ALL YOU WANT IS TO BE HAPPY, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN HAVE THAT..
STOP HIDING AND COME OUT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU MAKE
IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR INDULGENCE FROM THE CHURCH--
--YOUR LIFE HAS NO MEANING.
STOP!!

OH LORD—
--HAVE MERCY.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE SHOW,
PUT YOUR MONEY IN THIS CAP!
A BRONZE PIECE WILL GET YOU ONE FLIP.
A SILVER PIECE WILL GET YOU 4 FLIPS!
IF MY HAT IS FILLED, THEY'LL WILL FLY LIKE BIRDS AND DANCE IN THE SKY!

I'M HAPPIEST WHEN I'M FLYING
I LIKE IT AS MUCH AS PRAYING IN CHURCH.
I MAKE THEM SMILE.
EVERY-ONE IS SO HAPPY.
..GOD'S SMILING TOO

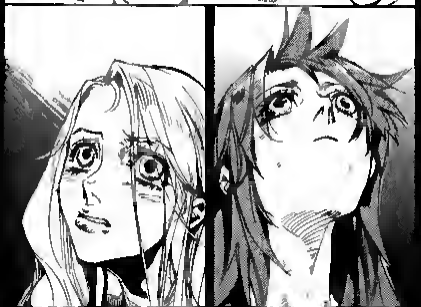

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

KAKIN
PANT

PANT
PANT
PANT

WHERE ARE WE SUP-POSED TO GO?

WHAT ...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?



SO LONG AS WE BELIEVE IN CHRIST ---
---GOD WILL WATCH OVER US, NO MATTER WHERE WE GO.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YES...
YES,
THAT'S RIGHT.

I WANT TO FLY HIGHER.
SO HIGH THAT I CAN TOUCH GOD.
!
OH!

I THOUGHT I COULD GO HIGHER.
I GUESS NOT
I CAN'T GO HALF AS HIGH AS YOU
YOU BROKE YOUR LEG.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO WORK,
SIMONE?

HAVE ADELE DO IT.
I CAN'T DO ANY BETTER THAN THAT.
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH ADELE.

SHE FOOLED US WITH WITCH-CRAFT!
.....

THAT WAS WITCH-CRAFT!

YES, BUT WE HAVE—
—THIS

WITCH!
SHE THINKS WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO TELL THE CHURCH.

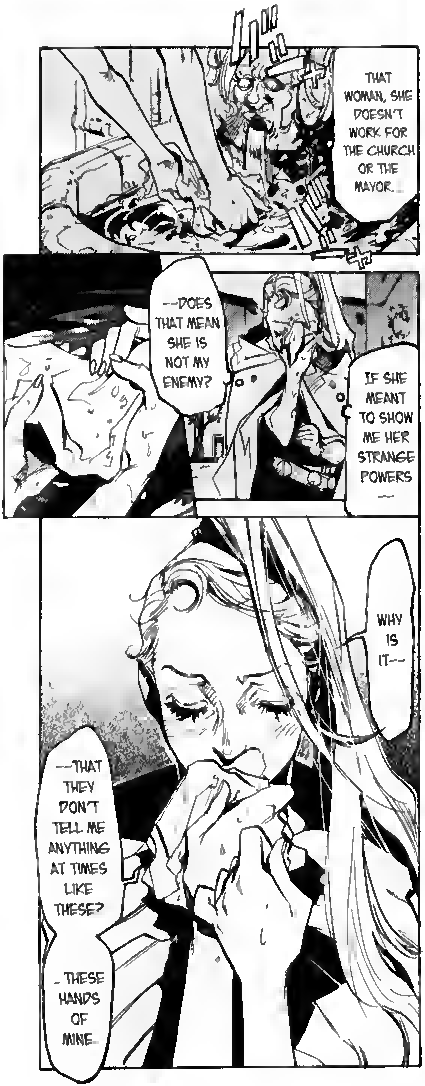
THAT THING THE SOLDIERS LEFT US INSTEAD OF PAYMENT?
WHAT WAS IT CALLED?
THE INDELIBLE-, NO THE INDUBITABLY-.
THE IN-
INDULGENCE!?
YES, THAT'S IT!
WE'LL USE THIS TO HAVE THE SOLDIERS HANG HER OUT TO DRY!
IN THE WORST WAYS WE CAN THINK OF!
YEAH!
HE HAS THE RIGHT TO SEEK RETRIBUTION WITHOUT REWARD!
HUH?
HUH?
THAT WAS GOOD.
HOW DO YOU KNOW A BIG WORD LIKE RETRIBUTION?

RRR
RRR
TONIGHT, WE WILL MAKE THEM FALL..
--THE CHURCH THAT STANDS UPON THE ROCK
CHURCH--?
HUH?
WHAT?
WE--
--WHO WILL DESTROY--
YOU--
AND I... TOGETHER, WE WILL AWAKEN...
HEY, WHAT--?

UH?
HEY... HEY
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
?

BOSS...
---CAN I DRAIN THE WATER...?
AAH!
!?
B-
B-
B-
BOSS!?
YOU...

THRICE YOU DENIED ME--
-- BEFORE THE COCK CROWED THAT NIGHT!


THAT WOMAN, SHE DOESN'T WORK FOR THE CHURCH OR THE MAYOR...
--DOES THAT MEAN SHE IS NOT MY ENEMY?
IF SHE MEANT TO SHOW ME HER STRANGE POWERS ---
WHY IS IT--
--THAT THEY DON'T TELL ME ANYTHING AT TIMES LIKE THESE?
...THESE HANDS OF MINE...

?

Courtesans (cortigiana) – twilight

For every successful prostitute, 1 000 died in the poor house. That was the reality of prostitutes in this age. Only a small handful prospered, the others lead miserable lives.

So were those who were successful really happy?

Imperatrice (the Empress), the topmost high class prostitute was turned into a prostitute by her mother at the age of 17, only several months after she experienced her first love. By the time she was 22, she was already one of the most famous prostitutes in Rome, known for her beauty and intelligence. By the time she was 25, she was nicknamed Imperatrice (empress). Bankers, aristocrats, artists, and Humanists frequented the salon she built in her mansion. At age 30, shortly after Raphael used her as a model for Venus, Imperia killed herself by drinking poison. She was at the height of her prosperity and popularity.

The reason behind her suicide was never uncovered, and the rumors abounded– despair over her life as a prostitute, never knowing true love, a patron's betrayal.

Many mourned her death, even Pope Julius II. He forgave her sin of taking her own life, and granted her a proper burial, but Imperia most likely wished for none of this.

Another high class prostitute Veronica, had so much power, she was able to influence the politics of her town, Venice. Yet there are no records of her from the time she was 35 until she died alone, at age 45.

All prostitutes lived short lives– their bodies and their spirits were worked to the bone. It is said that at the end of their lives, most would do nothing but pray.

The incredible greed that led many of these women to take everything from their men was the result of their insecurity over their futures. Whether they prospered or lived in poverty, their lives were "inhumane" on many levels.

They too suffered their fates, prayed, and sought salvation. They too were pilgrims of this era.

Prayer – fly

During prayer, one must not smile, be happy, or have fun. Any happy thoughts were to be cast aside. One's sins must be admitted, and one must punish oneself. That's what prayer was. That was befitting of the times.

In order to adapt to the changing economics, the Church had to collect large sums of money. In order to accomplish this, the Church instituted a plan. First, they stressed the weight of people's sins. Then they claimed that by paying the Church money, their sins would be absolved.

Ever since Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden of Eden, man's mere existence became sinful. That is why the world was the way it was. As this thinking became more prevalent, the weight of people's sins grew greater.

The continuous wars, the gap between rich and poor, the wake of loneliness created by personal victory– all of these things made people's sins seem graver.

In some instances this led to extreme measures. Fortunes were burned, heretics were killed, and fanatical ideas that the sins of man could only be cleansed by fire and bloodshed began to spread.

But, there were those who began to understand, despite the circumstances.

There were those who began to see that the old religious precepts upon which Rome was built were neither complete nor absolute. They clashed with the changing times, and the differences between old and new grew greater and greater.

People were beginning to realize this. This realization was reaching people's hearts, and affecting the fundamental order of the world as it was.

People prayed, but often their prayers were lost. Those who continued to pray began to realize ...the rift that ran through the world had reached levels it should never have reached. It was time to rise above destruction.

When it was realized that prayer was not only about suffering and condemnation, but that it could bring about happiness, a fierce battle of emotions began in the hearts of the faithful who knew only sin and punishment.

PILGRIM JÄGER

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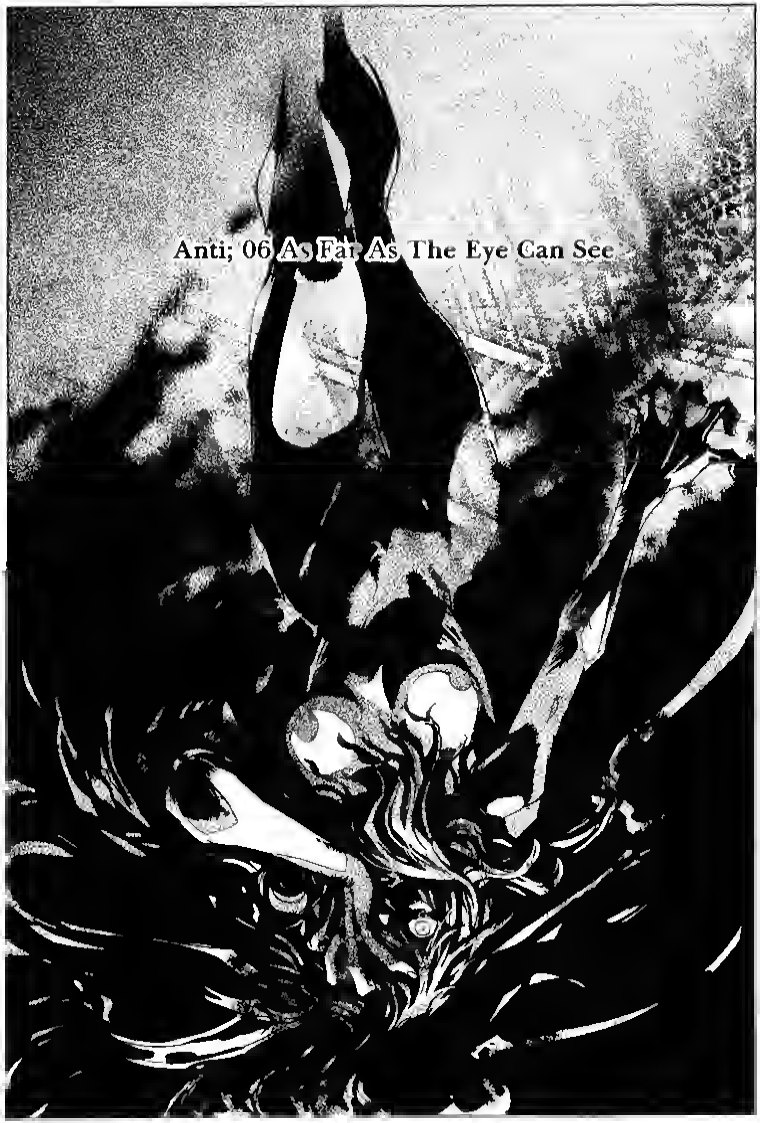

Anti; 06 As Far As The Eye Can See

I'M SORRY...
YEAH.

YOU GAVE THEM YOUR MONEY?!

I...
I WANTED TO GO HIGHER...
AND THAT'S WHY SIMONE GOT HURT...

AND THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE HIM ALL OF YOUR EARNINGS?

EVEN THE MONEY FOR OUR INDULGENCES?
JUST MY HALF
NOT YOURS
OF COURSE NOT!
IF YOU EVER TOUCHED MY HALF...
OH

IF WE MISS OUR PAYMENT—
—THEY'LL INCREASE THE AMOUNT AGAIN.
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO GET THEM AT THIS RATE.
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE OF ME.
WHAT!?
YOU CAN STILL GET YOUR INDULGENCE
WHAT!?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS
IL COMMISSARIO REQUESTS A PERFORMANCE!

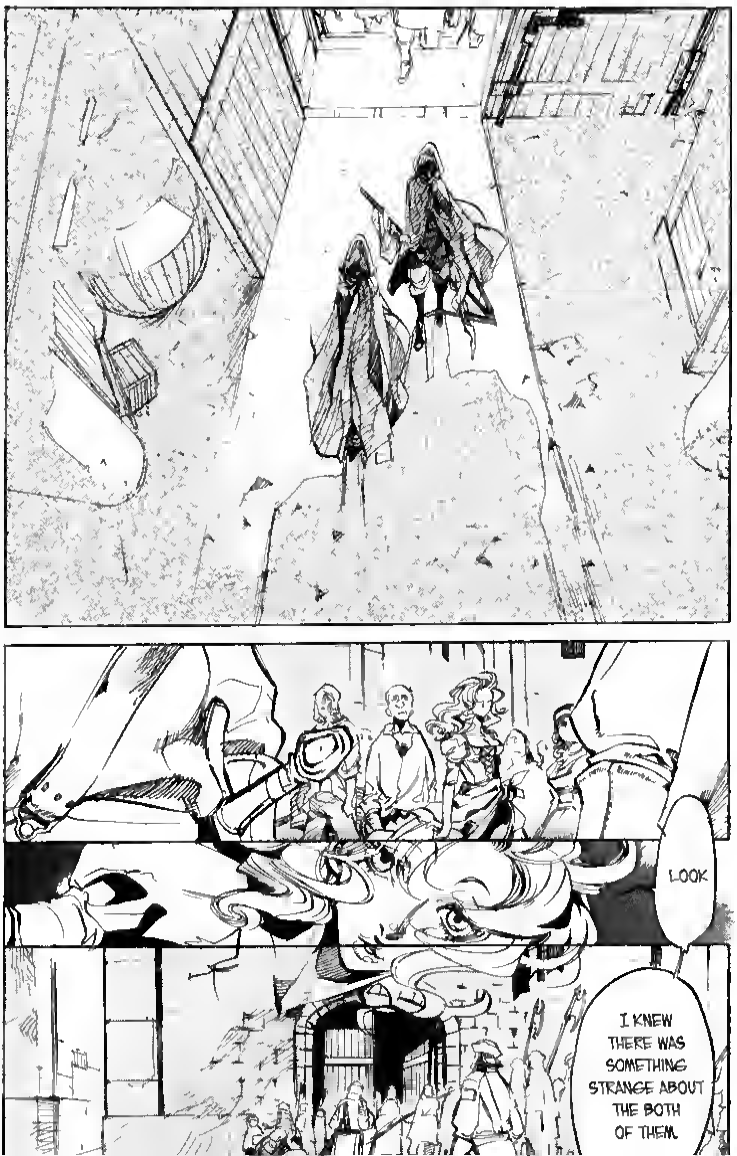
OH!
YOU'RE HERE!
TRY TO BE INCONSPICUOUS
OKAY

WE'VE ALREADY LOST 4 SOLDIERS.
THE BATH-HOUSE?
BACK THERE.
YES,

YES.
SOMEONE'S STILL ALIVE IN THERE.

DO YOU NEED BACK UP SOLDIERS?

COMMIS-SARIO-
--IT IS DANGEROUS EVEN FOR "THOSE WHO CANNOT BE SEEN."


LOOK
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE BOTH OF THEM.

LET'S SEE
WHO LURED WHOM?
YOU SURE CAME AT A GOOD TIME.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO EARN SOME MONEY.
WE HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT YOU GAVE AWAY.
OKAY.
IT'S STRONGER THAN BEFORE.
WHAT A PAIN.
KARIN ...
SHE'S MAD...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GAVE YOUR MONEY AWAY WITHOUT THINKING.
EVEN THE SIN OF BEING ALIVE CAN BE ABSOLVED WITH MONEY
THAT IS THE ONE THING THAT KARIN LEARNED FROM HER PARENTS.

BUT YOU HAVE NO NEED FOR MONEY.

IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT, JUST TAKE IT!
I'LL KILL ANYONE WHO GETS IN YOUR WAY.
...JUST LIKE THE CHURCH DOES!
BUT ---
---KARIN WOULD NEVER ALLOW THAT!

WHY DO YOU LISTEN TO HER?
SHE'S ONLY WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU EARN MONEY.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON.
YOU'RE WRONG.

YOU'RE WRONG...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
IDIOT?!
!
UGGH!!

!!
COME ON, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOUR FENNEL-STALK IS CRYING BECAUSE IT CAN'T WORK IT'S MAGIC!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SO EASY TO POSSESS.
NNGH!!
NNGH!
WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM THAT WOMAN, YOU'RE EASIER TO GET TO.
KARIN ISN'T HERE...

NOW IT'S
SHOWTIME!
OPEN THE GATE TO HELL!
RAISE THE FLAMES THAT WILL BURN THIS WORLD!

FIRST WE'LL BURY THAT GIRL, KARIN
GIVE ME CONTROL OF YOUR BODY!
I GUESS WE WERE TOO LATE.

I SENSE A STRONG EVIL SPIRIT, BUT...
I CAN'T TELL WHERE IT IS...
?
ADELE?
OUCH.

WHAT IS THIS?
!?
KARIN!

ADE...

OOOH
OOH!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
TSK
TSK
KARIN

HUH?
IS THAT A TATTOO?
IT'S HOT.
IT'S SO HOT.
WHO LURED WHOM?
?
?
MAYBE I WAS THE ONE WHO'D BEEN LURED.

WHY IS SHE SO FIXATED ON THAT GIRL?
KARIN...
IS IT BECAUSE OF YOUR ATTACHMENT TO HER?
HOW CAN SHE DEFY THE HAND THAT LURES HER TO HELL?
SHE SHOULD BE OURS BY NOW.
WHY?

BE-
CAUSE
KARIN
IS—
--THE
ONLY
PERSON
I HAVE.
THE
FLAMES
OF
HELL
WILL
SOON
REACH
THIS
WORLD.
IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.
THE
FIRST
STAGE IS
ALREADY
UNDER
WAY.
THE
OTHER
SIN OF
ROME...
THE
SIN OF
ALLOWING
MAN TO
ACQUIRE
FIRE...
PROMETHEUS'S
ORIGINAL
SIN...

The original sin of Prometheus Christ's Cross

Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden of Eden, to the wild plains of the East, for eating the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge And Christ died on the cross for the sins of mankind Those were the basics of Christianity in this era

However, during the Renaissance, Greek mythology and philosophy were rediscovered, and many texts with stories similar to the Bible were surfacing This created many waves

The stories that were most similar were Noah's ark and Deucalion's flood and Prometheus's punishment and Christ's crucifixion

Prometheus was the Greek god that stole language and fire for man's use and locked many disasters in Pandora s box As punishment for his gifts to man, he was chained atop a mountain where he was to suffer for eternity

The Renaissance clergy and Humanists found Greek mythology and philosophy to be very interesting and studied it in great detail They tried to meld Greek mythology into Christianity in an attempt to eradicate the inconsistencies But this was seen as heretical, and it was not uncommon for people to be tried and burned at the stake for this

In particular, the notion that a god gave fire to mankind did not make sense to Christians It was a fact that God created fire, but how and when? The theories were inconsistent

First there was the word and God produced light, and he created the world and all things He created mankind but what about fire? When did God give man fire?

This simple and basic question produced a terrifying answer to the "original sin of fire"

The answer was that fire cleanses all sins, and it has always existed on Earth as a tool for man to make offerings to God And so people were burned, cities were burned, and culture was burned

The Renaissance and the "Family"

In this age, the word "family" carried great importance

"House" wasn't just a place to live. It was a place where a clan gathered. Outsiders were permitted to enter only as guests. And to live in a certain town, in many cases, one had to be associated with a "family". All others were considered "outsiders", and were not given many of the rights granted to the local residents.

As Christ said, "knock, and the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:7). This meant that Church was supposed to accept anyone who wanted to become a Christian. However, during the Renaissance, as things became unstable, the "big family" of the Church began to change drastically. Those who joined the house were divided into groups, and discrimination was rampant.

There were some who left the "family" and the "house" by choice. These people were known as "Protestants" (ones who protest). They left their old "house" to create a new one. Some were killed by the very "house" that was supposed to protect them. These people were labeled witches and the heretics.

Many believed that these merciless edicts were necessary to "protect the big house". It shows us how badly society and the "house" were crumbling. It could be said that the actions against heretics and witches was an effort to stop the world as they knew it from collapsing.

In this unstable world, what was it that those who had lost their place were seeking? It wasn't money or status or honor. It was something that would allow them to belong once again– it was a "Family". They went beyond the ties of blood, and the ties of home, and created new "families" that were based on connections of the heart and mind.

However, most of these new "families" did not last. They were temporary shelters that disappeared as the world regained its stability. Yet, even in that short time, their minds connected, and their hearts bonded.

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IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME---
---KARIN
NO...
ADELE...

Anu; 07 Cor Unum – One Heart

AND SHE WILL NEVER RISE AGAIN.
THIS BODY IS OURS
THE LID IS USELESS NOW
SOON ADELE WILL FALL.
WE ARE ALWAYS HERE
WE ARE EVERY-WHERE.
WE ARE NOWHERE

ADELE!
COME ON!
JUST STUPID SHELLS FOR US TO OBSESS
WE USED THEM.
GO KEEP YOURSELF BUSY UNTIL WE GAIN CONTROL OF THIS BODY

– Meanwhile –
PLEASE!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST COOK TOGETHER!
HE WON'T SHARE THE FIREWOOD!
IF YOU LET US USE THE FIREPLACE I'LL SHARE MY WOOD
YES, BUT YOU HAVE WHAT GOES IN THE POT.
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH WATER.
GIVE THE GREEDY CHRISTIAN A FEW RIGHTS, AND HE TRIES TO TAKE IT ALL.

UHHH
I CAN'T LIVE ON BREAD ALONE
I'LL TRADE YOU SOME MEAT FOR WOOD
DO YOU HAVE THE SAME WEIGHT IN GOLD TO PAY FOR IT?
YOU CAN CALL THE RAINS, CAN'T YOU?
AM I A WELL BUCKET?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAND OVER THE SALT AND PEPPER FIRST?
IS THAT RAW?
YES
WE DON'T NEED WOOD OR FIRE
HEY!
...THE FIRE!!

UH!
AA AA AH!
WAAA HAAA HAAA HAA!
DO JEWS COOK OVER A FIRE THAT'S GONE OUT?
YOU!
ASHE, CALM DOWN!
THIS MEANS WE DON'T HAVE ANY LIGHT EITHER.
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT TOTAL DARKNESS IS LIKE
THIS IS SO STUPID!
I CAN'T STAND IT!

HUH?
KYAAA!
MY--
--BRAND IS--
--GLOW-ING...?
WHA...!?
WAAA...
ESTELE!
WAH!
AH!?

WHAT IS THIS FIRE?
IT'S NOT HOT
WHY?
? ? ?
WAAA!
HOT!
— HOT
H— H—
HUH ?
HUH?

IS IT HER OBSESSION WITH THAT WOMAN, KARIN?
YOU'RE JUST USING EACH OTHER.
NO.
GIVE IT BACK!
GIVE IT BACK!
GIVE ME BACK MY ALPHA CROSS.
YOU'LL BE SEEN AS A HERETIC IF YOU OWN SOMETHING LIKE THAT
A SEVERE PUNISHMENT.
YOU MUST OBEY THE RULES.
YOU WILL BE PUNISHED.
WHERE ARE YOU?
DADDY
MOMMY
BROTHER

IT STINKS LIKE THE ROTTING FLESH OF THOSE NUNS.
THEY BURIED IT IN THE CEME-TERY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
HERE
UH..
I'M GOOD AT FINDING THINGS.
I JUST KNOW
HOW?
THANK YOU.
--NOW WE'RE EVEN.
YOU WERE NICE TO ME BEFORE--

WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
THEY PUT US IN THE REPENTANCE BOX.
YOU WILL BE PUNISHED
A VERY SEVERE PUNISH-MENT
THROW THAT AWAY!
HOW DARE YOU?!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU TO LECTURE US?!
ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS GETTING MORE MONEY!
STUPID NUNS!
THIS ISN'T DISCIPLINE
THEY'RE JUST BEING MEAN.
I'M HAPPY TO HAVE SOMEONE IN HERE BEING DISCIPLINED WITH ME
EHWA!

HA HA HA HA HA!
DON'T FIGHT IT!
YOU'RE AFRAID, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T FIGHT IT!
IF YOU'RE AFRAID, RUN AWAY!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
THIS IS NOTHING!

NO MATTER HOW BADLY THEY TREATED US, IT DIDN'T MATTER.
BIBLES CONFIS-CATED
FORBIDD-EN TO GO TO MASS
WE HAD ONLY ONE BLANKET IN THE WINTER, HARDLY ANY FOOD, AND WE WERE FORCED TO WORK IN THE FIELDS.
IT'S STRANGE...
THEY WERE SO CRUEL TO US.
ADELE IS...

WOW
WHAT'S THIS?
WITCH!
WITCH!
WITCH!
STOP IT MOMMY!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP IT!
WE KNOW THE CHURCH PAID YOU HANDSOMELY,
WHY DON'T YOU SHARE IT WITH US?
I'M YOUR BROTHER!
I GAVE YOU ALL THE MONEY WE HAD!
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
THERE'S REALLY NONE LEFT

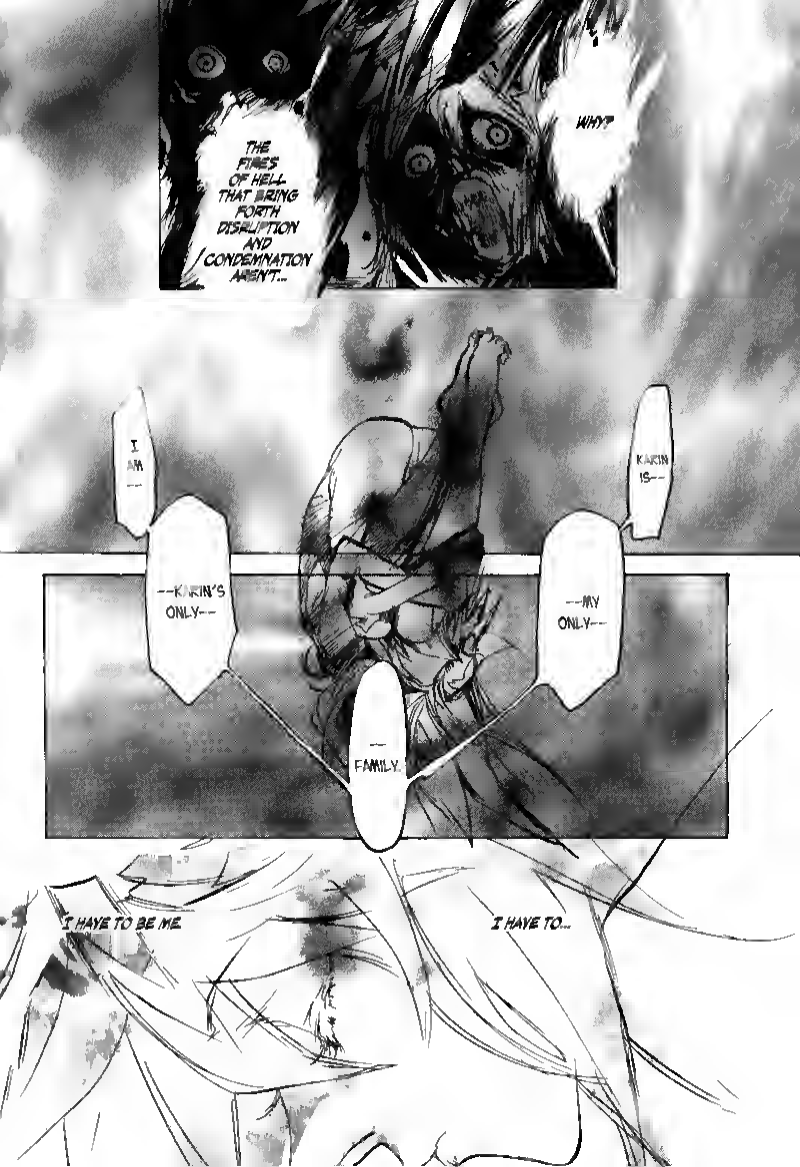
SINNER!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOUR FATHER IS!
GET OUT!
NO!
I'M YOUR DAUGHTER.
DON'T LEAVE ME, FATHER!
DON'T ABAN-DON ME!
...
I...
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE
I WON'T LOOK INTO MY HEART ANYMORE
I WON'T TALK TO MY HEART ANYMORE.

SO...
SO PLEASE LOVE ME, MOTHER.
I'M NOT A HERETIC!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO PROTECT YOU AND THE FAMILY!
WHY DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
I CAN CURE YOU!
PLEASE!
PLEASE LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU!
.....
THE GYPSY WOMEN WERE HUMILIATED BY THE OFFICIALS ... AND KILLED
WHERE IS MOMMY?
ONE WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BORN
VERONICA
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT,
YOUR OWN KIND BETRAYED YOU.

MOMMY
MOMMY
YOU DIED WITH YOUR MOTHER.
GHOST!
WHY,
I'M A JEW TOO..
WHY ?
GET OUT!
WE'RE FAMILY..
WHY DID YOU REPORT ME,
FATH-ER?

I FOUGHT, IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.
MY BROTHER AND MY FATHER GAVE THEIR BLOOD!
WE FOUGHT !!
..AND THIS IS WHAT WE GET?
MY HOME-LAND!
EVERYTHING'S RUINED!
OH! CHRIST!
WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT ME TO DO!?
I SEE ---
---YOU DON'T HAVE A FAMILY EITHER.

UM, KARIN...
WHY DID WE--
--SAY THOSE THINGS?
UM, DELE...
LET'S BECOME A FAMILY...


THE FIRES OF HELL THAT BRING FORTH DISRUPTION AND CONDEMNATION AREN'T...
WHY?
I AM---
--KARIN'S ONLY--
KARIN IS---
---MY ONLY---
---FAMILY.
I HAVE TO BE ME.
I HAVE TO...

THE REASON I'M ANGRY IS--
--YOU DON'T THINK IT MATTERS!!
WHAT'S THE POINT--
--IF I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH AN INDULGENCE?
ARE THE FLAMES OF HELL--
--BURNING US?
aaaa

WAKE UP, NOW!
ADELE!!

THE FIRE'S GONE
WHAT --
--DID WE SEE?
WE DIDN'T SEE...
FOR A MOMENT --
--WE BECAME ONE
WE SHARED OUR EXPERI-ENCES
THE DEVEIKUT OF THE KABBALAH
WE HAVE THIS IN CHRISTIAN-ITY TOO
IT'S CALLED COR UNUM- ONE HEART
COR UNUM-
THE FIRE THAT IS SAID TO EXIST SOME-WHERE IN HELL
ONLY THE SOULS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED THIS FIRE--
--CAN ESCAPE HELL.

IT IS THE RITUAL TO LET GO OF OUR INDIVIDUALITY SO THAT THE GOD IN ALL OF US CAN BECOME ONE!
IT'S DEVEIKUT OF THE KABBALAH!
THIS IS A MIRACLE, WITHOUT A DOUBT!
IT IS THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT THAT I SEEK TO KNOW
.....
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?
THAT'S EASY
GOD IS ANGRY
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HAVE TO REVISIT THE SAME THING?
THE SAME THING?

FAMILY.
THAT WAS,
THE ONE COMMON THREAD IN WHAT WE SAW
PEOPLE WHO ARE MEANT TO BE TOGETHER BECOME SEPARATED ...
—LIKE THE PARTS OF GOD THAT HAVE SCATTERED ...
FAMILY ...
THAT'S RIGHT.
GOD IS TELLING US TO BECOME A FAMILY.

Anti; 07 / Fin

Cor Unum – One Heart

People everywhere were losing their "houses"

Economic change, ongoing wars, buying and selling of land were forcing people out of their "houses". A "house" in this era was more than a physical structure. It was a coming together of a clan. It created a sense of order. Houses were the building blocks for cities and society in general. They were the foundation of order and stability. The loss of these "houses" meant the loss of stability, and many cities were in a state of havoc.

It also displaced countless numbers of people. In reaction to that, people began to form economic organizations called guilds. Unique rituals were created and performed to deepen the bonds amongst the members. Those who knew the ritual were "family", and those who didn't were "outsiders". "Societies bound by secrets" were created. This was the beginning of secret societies.

In the background a new concept was beginning to hatch, and it's whispers could be heard everywhere. Cor Unum– One Heart.

This effort to regain a sense of order and belonging was embodied in the concept "cor unum". But soon, it came to mean something much deeper: "to become one with God". By joining together through God, everyone could truly become one.

Anyone who believed this was labeled a heretic by the Roman Catholic Church, and burned at the stake. "To believe in God, and to become one with Him" was heretical even amongst heretics. Why? God would never forgive man's sins so easily. Only Christ had the right to claim that, "God, my Father, and I are one". Why? Because Christ was the Son of God and because he was the Son of God he was nailed to the cross for the sins of man.

That was the Roman Catholic Church's stance.

To believe that one could "feel God", "touch God", or "Speak to God" was the greatest of all sins, and was punishable by death. Despite this, Cor Unum or the Kaballah's Deveikut (the ritual to bring together the fragments of God) was beginning to spread. And, as the crevice deepened, and the end of the century neared people began to 'feel God". And the bloody battle against the old doctrine was beginning.

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Anti; 08 Evil in the Hand

HUH?
WH--
WHAT WAS I DOING?
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE
KARIN!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
OH, WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING
KARIN--
--ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
OF COURSE I AM.

!
BUT...
ギチ
ギチ

I'M EMBARRASSED AND I CAN'T SAY IT VERY WELL BUT--
--I DEPEND ON YOU,
YOU KNOW!

KARIN...
COMMISSARIO!
THE CHURCH CAVALRY ARE HERE.
NOT GOOD.
WE HAVE TO HURRY.
THUD

TH-
—THIS IS...
?
UH!
COMMIS-SARIO!
ANSWER ME!
PROFESS-IONIST!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FIN-ISHED.
YES

YOU TWO GET OUT OF HERE IMMEDI-ATELY!
THE CHURCH CAVALRY ARE ON THEIR WAY
GOOD!
CLEAN THIS UP BEFORE THE CHURCH CAVALRY ARRIVE.
THANK YOU
YES.
TAKE MY CARRIAGE
BE CAREFUL NOT TO BE SEEN!
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING.
WE'LL TAKE OUR LEAVE NOW...

ガラ ガラ
HMMM.
TAKING THE DEVIL HOME, I SEE.
ALL THAT SHINES ISN'T ALWAYS PRECIOUS ---
--O', FORTUNE TELLER.
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ

SOMEONE WAS HAVING A SEIZURE, CARDINAL.
IT JUST GOT A LITTLE OUT OF HAND.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION, COMMISSARIO.
YES.
ER...
IS THAT THE MAN?
SEIZURE?
SIR.
I WILL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
WE WILL HAND HIM OVER TO THE PILGRIMS IN MILAN.
SEIZURES ARE A SACRED ILLNESS
IT IS THE RULE TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY SITE OF VICTUS.

WHEN SOMEONE IS POSSESSED BY DEMONS---
---HE CAN EXHIBIT SEIZURE-LIKE SYMPTOMS, COMMISSARIO.
REALLY?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT
I WISH...
YOU COULD TRY TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SACRED WORK
WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?
PLEASE REMOVE YOUR MEN.
IF THIS IS A SACRED ILLNESS--
---THIS FALLS UNDER THE CHURCH'S JURISDICTION.

THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE BATHHOUSE.
THAT CAVALRY!
SIR!
DID YOU DISPOSE OF ALL OF THE BODIES?
WHO EVER HEARD OF THE CHURCH RUNNING A WHOREHOUSE!
DON'T LET ANYONE FROM THE CHURCH SEE YOU!
BURY THEM BEHIND THE PRISON.
—THAT COMMANDER.
ESPECIALLY—

HWAAH!

I'LL PRAY IN MY HEAD.
I'M TIRED.
YOU'RE NOT PRAYING TONIGHT, KARIN?
GOOD NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT, KARIN.

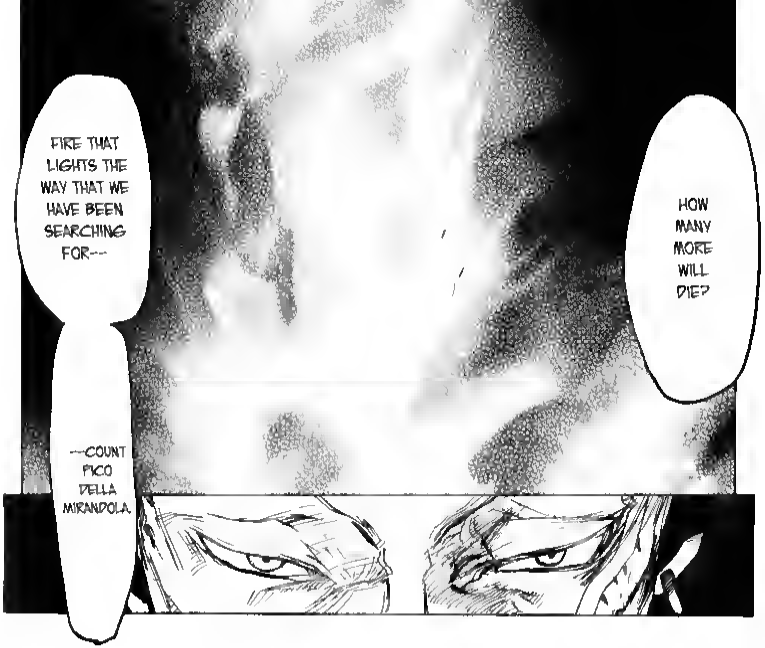
--FOR HER TO FALL...
--FOR US TO BE SEALED IN--
--OR FOR THE LID TO BE OPENED--
HER ATONEMENTS WILL CREATE A SPACE IN HER HEART...
IT'S STILL NOT STRONG ENOUGH--
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH...
KARIN WILL SHOW US...

WELL,
WERE THE FIRE AND THE ILLUSION REAL, PARACELSUS?
AND?
EWWERY-ONNNE 'ZZAW THE SAME THINNG
WELL,
W-
W-
W-
WV-
THAT'S A FACT
WHAT WAS IT?
DO YOU KNOW?
HA
HA..
AND, HOW ARE THE SILVER COINS?
I DON'T KNOW.

FAMILY?
...
"FAMILY"
SUGGESTED WE PLAY
ONE OF THE SILVER COINS
THEY'RE GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER... ON THE SURFACE...
THEY'RE DOING WELL...
HM-
WWWE HAVEN'T REALLY STARTED PLAYING YET BUT...
VV-
ALESSANDRO AND KATARINA WILL BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR MOVES.
IT'S LESS THAN 3 MONTHS UNTIL LEO X DIES, ACCORDING TO THE PROPHECY.
GG-GG-GOT IT...
BEFORE WE DO, SCATTER AND HIDE THE SILVER COINS.
WE'LL BE GOING INTO ENEMY TERRITORY SOON.

NOW THAT THE WAR IN THE NORTH IS BECOMING SERIOUS—
—THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GREAT SINNERS TO MAKE THEIR APPEARANCES.
FIELDS OF BLOOD ARE EVERY-WHERE.
SO, WHERE IS THE FIELD THAT I GET TO CULTIVATE?
ACCORDING TO THE PROPHECY—
—THE FIRST SILVER COIN WILL BE CRUSHED SOON.
CCCH
CCCR-CRUSH-EDD
YOUR FIELD WILL BE DETERMINED DEPENDING ON WHO IS DESTROYED.
MAKE CONTACT WITH LA IMPERATRICE WHO HAS GONE AHEAD, AND CAREFULLY SCATTER THE SILVER COINS

THE TIME AND PLACE WHERE THEY WILL MEET AGAIN WILL BECOME KNOWN LATER.
DON'T LET A SINGLE SILVER COIN BE DESTROYED
AS YOU WISH, SERPENT OF GREAT KNOWLEDGE AND SIN.
FIRE...
COR UNUM.


FIRE THAT LIGHTS THE WAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR---
---COUNT PICO DELLA MIRANDOLA.
HOW MANY MORE WILL DIE?

I CAN'T WORK LIKE THIS---
--SO, WE DECIDED TO JOIN THE CHURCH GUILD.
HOW ABOUT YOU ADELE?
ボン
ボン
I WANT TO RETURN THIS TO YOU
ADELE, YOU'LL BE FINE ON YOUR OWN.
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF US CAN FLY LIKE YOU DO.
EVEN IF YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN---
---YOU'LL BE OKAY, ADELE.

IT'S HARD TO BE ALONE.
I WOULD NEVER ABANDON YOU LIKE THAT.
WE'RE ALWAYS WITH YOU.
I'M FINE.

I CAN STILL BE A FRIEND TO THEM.
SO I'M FINE

WHAT?

!!
THIS NIGHT
THEY
WILL
FALL

THRICE
--YOU DENIED ME--
--BEFORE THE COCK CROWED!

Anti; 08 / Fin

•Continued in Volume 4•

Supplemental notes. Silver Coins and their nicknames 1.

The Priest – Ashe Exequier

The salt of the Holocaust– the burning of offerings was a Jewish ritual in which an animal was burned as an offering to God. Salt has the power to cleanse, and can "burn" that which is unclean. Part of Ashe's body is made of this salt.

The Priestess – Kurogula Sweijin

La Tempestaria – one who calls the storms. According to folklore, these pillagers came from the magick kingdom on a boat that flies through the sky. They control the weather and use hail and storms to cause crops to fall to the ground, which they then steal. The crews on this ship are known as Tempesta.

The Queen of Goblets – Faustina Metatron

Faustina Metatron is the female version of Metatron, the voice of angels. These angels are messengers of God. They play an important role in Judaism. Metatron also was the angel that led the people of Israel through the desert during the Exodus, and is the Angel that is the link between God and Humanity.

The Devil – Joajim Dionus

The wailing woman – banshee. This is a ghost in the form of a woman who wails the name of those whose fate it is to die. It is said that if someone made a musical score of her grievous cries, then the wailing woman would come and take the life of anyone playing it.

The Grim Reaper – Veronica Dullahan

Shadow – In Europe, it was believed that shadows were our "other selves". It was the personality that was never seen, the self that would never live, the part of one's heart that would never grow, oppressed desires, etc. In legend, the Dullahan was a headless undead creature that rode a black horse that was probably the inspiration for the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow".

Supplemental notes Silver Coins and their nicknames 2

The Hermit – Estelle Nonnators

Nonnators (the unborn) That was what people who were born by caesarian section were called in Spain Because they were not born properly, they remained partly in the world they lived in before coming to this one

The Hanged – Michelangelo Buonarotti

The Destroyer (Abaddon) – is the king of the locusts that appears when the Fifth Angel blows his trumpet in the Book of Revelations He is also the Destroyer of the abyss, and is one of the fallen angels

The Moon – Ignatius de Loyola

The distance of 1,000 paces (mille passuum) – it is a measurement of distance Also known as "million" Converted into measurements of today, it is approximately 1 6 kilometers This is what Loyola called his ability to walk on air

The Queen of Gold Coins – Agatha Marley

Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa) Via dolorosa is the name of the road that Christ walked down on his way to being crucified, carrying a huge cross, wearing a crown of thorns, and being whipped. When he arrived at the hill of Golgotha, he was nailed to the cross he carried, and was crucified

The Lovers – Giovanni di Medici

The Lovers (Gli amanti) around the middle of the century a poem with the line "Pain inflicted by a lover can only be eased by the lover" became popular Singing about love, suffering, and death sped up the departure from the tradition of biblical emancipation This was the beginning the Romantic trend that sung of man and respect

Extra
Interlude
Intermezzo

A day in September 1521
Before the Silver Coins gathered together

Inland Italy

YOU MUST HAVE HAD A BORING CHILD-HOOD
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT
ポン
ころころ
HEY, YOU KIDS!
THIS IS WHY EPIDEMICS SPREAD
OH MY
HEY
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. LOYOLA. EVEN CHILDREN LIKE THAT NEED TO BE TAUGHT TO RESPECT THE DEAD
THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE KICKED AROUND!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE STRANGE MAN IS.
THAT'S NOT THE BALL!
SOMETHING THIS LIGHT IS NOT GOING TO BOUNCE PROPERLY
I WILL MAKE YOU A BALL THAT'S MUCH EASIER TO KICK.

THERE.
FINISHED?
A BALL MADE OUT OF OLD LEATHER.
--INSTEAD OF JUST KICKING THE BALL AROUND
IF YOU MAKE SOME RULES--
IT'S MUCH MORE FUN
LISTEN
OKAY, SO,
FOR INSTANCE, WE'LL MAKE A GOAL OVER THERE
I GET IT!
AND NOW DIVIDE YOURSELVES INTO TWO GROUPS ..
NOW WE SCORE AGAINST EACH OTHER AND SEE WHO WINS!
READY TO TRY IT?
THAT'S RIGHT!
MR. LOYOLA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THOSE KIDS!
ARE YOU THE MONKEY BOSS OR SOMETHING?
HA HA HA
IN ORDER TO SPREAD THE TEACHINGS OF GOD, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE WITH THE LOCALS

YOU'RE SO BORING
HUH?
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE PROPER QUALIFICATIONS.
BEING DISTRACTED BY SUCH LOWLY GAMES IS LIKE RUBBING MUD IN THE CARDINAL'S FACE.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN PURE LUCK, BUT DIDN'T THE CARDINAL GIVE YOU A JOB TO DO?
WHAT GOOD IS IT FOR A MAN WHO STRIVES TO BECOME A PRIEST TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH BORING MATTERS?
I JUST NEED TO BE MYSELF BEFORE GOD
WHO NEEDS QUALIFICATIONS..

HURRY UP, MISTER!
OH!
A CLERGY-MAN--
--SPENDS HIS ENTIRE LIFE CLIMBING THE STAIRS!
OUR EXISTENCE MEANS NOTHING TO HIS HIGHNESS THE POPE
AND THAT IS JUST FINE!

THE POPE CANNOT FEEL THE LOVE OF GOD
IN THE SMILING FACES OF THESE CHILDREN.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT--
--XAVIER?
MR. IGNATIUS DI LOYOLA,
THE OTHER PROFESSORS HAVE SAID THAT YOUR THESIS IS WONDERFUL.
IF YOU SPEND MORE TIME STUDYING THEOLOGY AND CHURCH LAW, YOU COULD BECOME A PROFESSOR.

PROFESSOR XAVIER...
I'D LIKE YOU ASK YOU, WHO AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE HAS BECOME A PROFESSOR.
WHAT IS IT?
THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF UNIVERSITIES WHO CANNOT READ.
WITH THAT IN MIND, IS WRITING THESES THE BEST WAY TO LEARN ABOUT GOD'S LOVE?
WELL...
THAT IS WHAT ONE WHO STRIVES TO BECOME A CLERGYMAN DOES.
HUH?
YOU SEE, WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I BROKE EVERY ONE OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE NOTHING LEFT BUT TO--
--FEEL THE LOVE OF GOD AND BECOME FRIENDS WITH THE LORD.

IS IT NOT THE SAME FOR YOU--
--- PROFESSOR XAVIER?
BACK THEN I WAS THE TEACHER..
?

AR-
AREN'T YOU GOING TO PLAY WITH US?
UH,
I DON'T REALLY LIKE TO PLAY KICK-BALL...
REALLY?
BUT YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH US.
UH,
WAIT, ER...
COME PLAY WITH US!
WE NEVER STOP CLIMBING THE STAIRS..
HERE GOES, XAVIER!
OKAY, MR. LOYOLA!

Extra / Fin

PILGRIM JÄGER
–Volume 3–

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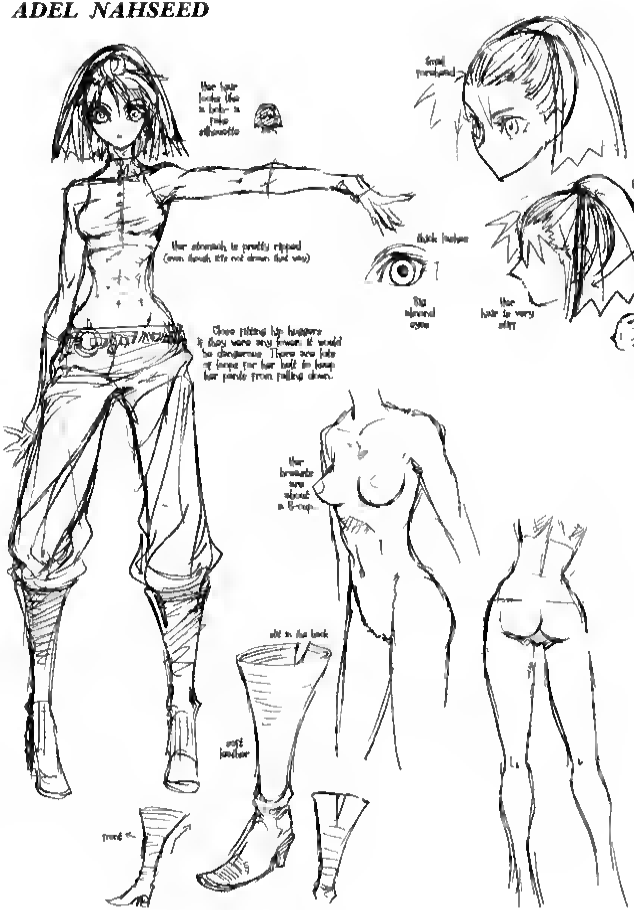
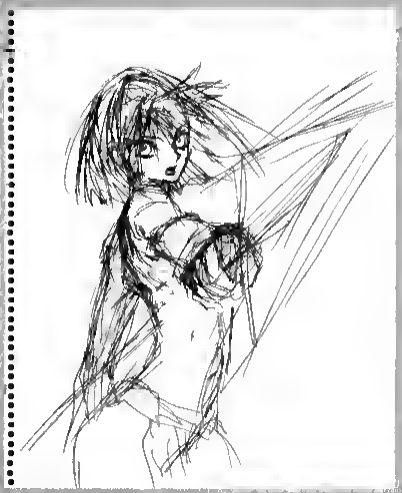
ADEL NAHSEED


her hair looks like a helm in this silhouette
her stomach is pretty ripped (even though it's not shown that way)
these pitting lip hangers if they were any heavier it would be dangerous. There are lots of things for her belt to keep her pants from falling down.
her breasts are about a B-cup
slit in the back
soft leather
front v.
front
small ponytail
the worry bar pinched high and it makes her hair fall forward
dark lashes
the upward eyes
the hair is very silky

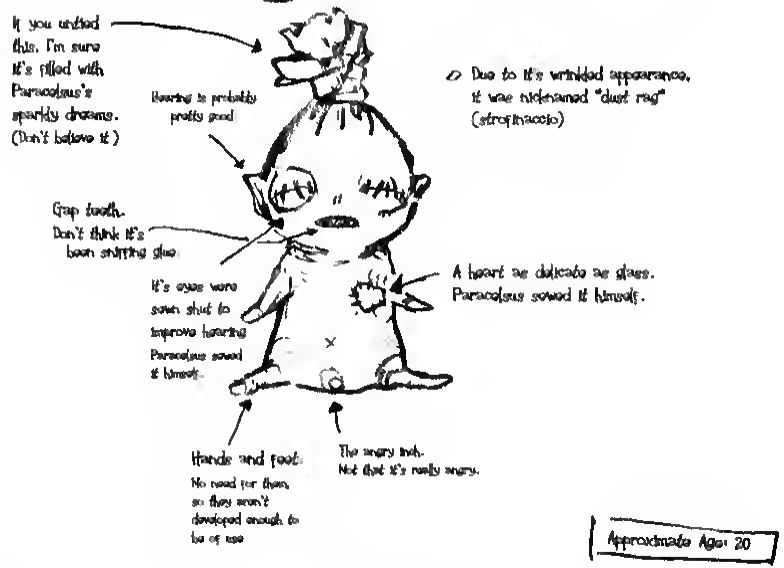
Her hairstyle is very much like Lina Kamiyama's but she makes sure the hair tie is never visible, so people won't notice it. (above right: showing her style.)
(Editor note: Lina Kamiyama is from the Capcom title Vs. Tricker game. And she was a character for Capcom.)
wide forehead
pouty lips
expressive clearly outline eyes
Eyelids drooping.
round eyes
Tied tightly in the back.
Naked, they're this big- an E-cup
slim waist
KARIN ATLANTIC



VOLUME 1
ROUGH COVER SKETCHES
DON'T SAY THAT THERE'S NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE

PARACELSUS'S GREAT INVENTION

PART 1 THE COMMUNICATION HOMUNCULUS.


If you untied this, I'm sure it's filled with Paracelsus's sparkly dreams. (Don't believe it.)
Hearing is probably pretty good
Due to it's wrinkled appearance, it was nicknamed "dust rag" (strofinaccio)
Gap tooth. Don't think it's been sniffing glue
It's eyes were sewn shut to improve hearing. Paracelsus sewed it himself.
A heart as delicate as glass. Paracelsus sewed it himself.
Hands and feet. No need for them, so they aren't developed enough to be of use
The angry bit. Not that it's really angry.

Approximate Age: 20

Jar sold separately. 79 Ducats

Instructions for use:

- Please place in specified jar when using (sold separately)
- Please use jar when transporting
- 10 minutes of talk time
- Please allow to rest regularly
- Although created by a specialist, still experimental. As such, no trade-ins or returns will be accepted

TOH UBUKATA

MAMI ITOH

PILGRIM JÄGER

VOLUME THREE

US/$9.99
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Supernatural
Fantasy

Finally, the Silver Coins are together. But despite their unified purpose, they're bickering with petty disputes. Meanwhile, Karin has found that she's being observed by a mysterious woman whose intentions are unclear and whose very presence is menacingly evil. Adele's multiple personalities want to do more than just talk to her and give her advice...now they want control!

THIS BOOK READS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT

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13 AND OLDER

Anime Works

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